

The food makes a meal, but dinner theater can make a meal feel like a celebration.

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NBA star Yao Ming has made a pile for the fight against SARS.

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Your diary of "Surviving in Beijing" is written in tears and blood.

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All Beijing pets are required to be inoculated against regular diseases.

Photo by Aily

SARS Puts Pets in the Doghouse

By Xiao Rong

iming to foster a safer and cleaner environment for local residents in the face of the SARS epidemic, Haidian Public Security Bureau sent a letter to local residents recently suggesting better care and management of pets.

"Many people who don't own dogs or cats complain about pet owners who walk their dogs in an irresponsible way and thus disturb the public environment. Some even fear the SARS virus may be transmitted by pets," said Mr. Zhao, director of the canine department of the Haidian Public Security Bureau, who declined to give his full name.

The regulation, the first of its kind in the city according to Zhao, suggests pet owners be alert to sanitation problems posed by their pets and minimize walking the pets to avoid possible SARS cross-infection.

"We just want to create a safer living environment for residents and strike a balance between the rights of pet owners and those of people who don't have pets," Zhao added.

Yang Yongle, a doctor at the Eastern Baby Pet Hospital in Chaoyang District, told *Beijing Today*, "During the initial period of the SARS outbreak, so many people called us to consult about possible fever symptoms of their

pets. Many even wanted to abandon their animals for fear of being cross-infected."

According to Li Quanlu, director of the Beijing Veterinary Supervising Institute, there have been no confirmed cases of pets being infected with SARS in Beijing, nor has there been any proof up till now that pets can transmit the disease.

The institute has issued an order since April requiring all city pets to have the standard inoculations, in order to increase their general disease immunity. Most scheduled pet trade fairs and exhibitions have been suspended or cancelled, and quarantine inspections have been strengthened.

Li also referred to a jointly issued regulation drafted by the public health, agriculture and public security departments on the handling of pets belonging to families with probable and suspected SARS cases.

"Pets from the families of SARS victims that themselves show symptoms of SARS, will be caught and put down. The bodies will then be disinfected to prevent any possible cross-infection," said Li.

Li told *Beijing Today* that the Ministry of Agriculture is carrying out studies to determine whether the pneumonia-like disease might have jumped the species barrier between animals and humans.

"We should treat our pets in

a scientific and sensible way before any conclusions are made," Li said.

Nevertheless he suggested healthy pet owners should take necessary precautionary measures to protect their healthy pets, such as regular family disinfections.

As an expert from the veterinarian diagnosis center of the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Tian Kegong, said no farm animals or pets with alleged SARS symptoms have been found to have died of the SARS virus.

"As a researcher, I respect the statistics and facts at hand. There have been no epidemiology data to indicate a possible transmission of SARS virus through pets," said Tian. "We will continue our study, but we also hope everyone remains calm and treats the problem in a scientific manner."

"If pets could transmit the SARS virus, then veterinarians are in the biggest danger. However, we have received no report to date of any example of veterinarians being infected," said Guo Yaming, from the Beijing Farming and Veterinarian Station.

Lin Degui, a professor at the China Agricultural University's veterinary hospital said canines and felines have all along carried a form of the coronavirus, different from the newly found SARS coronavirus, but have never been known to transmit it to humans.

"It's only speculation that the SARS coronavirus might originate from wild animals, nothing conclusive has been found," Lin stressed.

In the opinion of Lu Di, director of the China Animal Protection Association, the government should take the responsibility of relieving the panic among pet owners that has resulted in numerous pets being abandoned.

Lu has received many calls from association members from other provinces expressing concern and anger.

"In some cities, like Nanjing, Wuhan and Zhengzhou, dogs are banned from streets and parks and must stay indoors. If seen outside, especially unlicensed dogs, they will be rounded up and killed," Lu said.

The official precautionary measures targeting pets to prevent SARS transmission will not help the fight against SARS but only confuse pet owners and cause panic, said Lu.

She appealed to the authorities to do more to educate the public by informing them of the latest studies on the SARS virus.

"What we should abandon is the uncivilized practice of preying on and eating wild animals, rather than demonizing those lovely animals that have been companions to humans for so many years," said Lu.

To keep foreigners in Beijing informed about the latest progress of the city's fight against the SARS epidemic, the Information Office of Beijing Municipality and *Beijing Today* are launching "Read *Beijing Today* for free."

From this week, *Beijing Today* will be distributed free by our Red Cap Company to foreign embassies, enterprises and media organizations in Beijing.

Beijing Today is the first comprehensive English language

weekly of the municipal level in Beijing, run by *Beijing Youth Daily* and published every Friday. In the four weeks since April 25, *Beijing Today* has presented a series of SARS special reports. If you are interested in reading

any of these four issues, contact us at bjtoday@ynet.com. We will send you copies free of charge. Any of your comments and suggestions will be most appreciated. Thank you!

SARS Figures Update

There were 26 new SARS cases and four deaths from 10 am May 21 to 10 am May 22 on the Chinese mainland. Beijing reported 15 new SARS cases and two deaths, China's Ministry of Health announced yesterday.

The cumulative total of confirmed SARS cases on the Chinese mainland rose to 5,271, the number of SARS patients discharged from hospitals was 2,445 and the death toll reached 300, the ministry said in its daily report.

Doctor Jiang Speaks Out

By Xiao Rong

Jiang Yanyong chose not to keep silent when China was hit by the sudden attack of severe acute respiratory syndrome.

The retired doctor at the Beijing No. 301 Hospital rose to global fame in early April when he released to the media the true numbers of SARS patients in several Beijing hospitals. Since then, he has "received numerous calls from relatives, students, patients and media who have expressed concern over his situation," according to a China News Agency report last Friday.

"I am under no pressure, nor have any restrictions been placed on me. Everything in my life just goes on as usual," the 72-year-old professor said.

The report described Jiang's daily routine as getting up at 7 am, bicycling to buy some vegetables, surfing the Internet and reading. Mondays are exceptions, when he usually checks the surgery wards of Beijing No. 301 Hospital.

As a renowned surgeon in the field of tumors, Jiang Yanyong is still active in some complex operations and is regularly invited to attend consultations.

"My skills originate from my patients so I should try my best to relieve their miseries with the skills I've learnt. This also reflects the spirit of my Alma Mater," Jiang was quoted by China News Agency as saying.

After graduating from Peking Union Medical College in 1957, Jiang was assigned to work in the General Hospital of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (Beijing No. 301 Hospital) according to the report.

Because of his family's connection with the Kuomintang, Jiang was branded a counterrevolutionary during the Cultural Revolution and sent to Qinghai to work in a labor camp for four years. He returned to No. 301 Hospital in 1971 and resumed his medical career.

Jiang commented positively on the disease prevention and control work of the central and municipal government, the China News Agency report said.

The retired doctor has



Jiang Yanyong at his home in Beijing. Photo by Ren Chenming

been giving most of his attention to the latest research progress on SARS, recording the data to present to the medical staff at his hospital, according to the report.

Jiang was praised by *Finance* magazine for having contributed to the increasing transparency in China's handling of SARS.

The Ministry of Health claimed in TV reports on April 3 that SARS had been controlled and that there had been only 12 SARS cases and three SARS related deaths in Beijing. After watching this report, Jiang sent an email to Phoenix TV and China Central Television on April 4 and April 5 respectively, informing them of the real numbers of cases he had verified from several military hospitals.

In the letter, Jiang called for accurate reporting on the emergent SARS epidemic, and expressed the hope that the news media "could take responsibility for the life and health of mankind," according to the May 5 report in *Finance*.

Jiang's letter was released by the *Times* magazine of America on April 8 and has aroused worldwide attention ever since, pushing the government to release epidemic information in a more accurate and timely manner.

When asked by *Finance* Magazine why he wrote the letter, Jiang Yanyong's answer was "If a doctor didn't speak out the truth, more people would die, and the country would suffer."

He added that he had said all that needed to be said, and that he did not want to be in the limelight again.

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Local Health Officials Deny Under-Reporting



Liang Wannian (left) and colleagues at Tuesday's regular press conference.
Xinhua Photo

The capital of Beijing has no need to cover up SARS cases and the spread of the deadly disease has been contained among students, medical staff and migrant workers, said senior Beijing officials at a regular government press conference on Tuesday. Officials told reporters there has been no under-reporting of SARS cases in the capital and the disease has been contained among the most vulnerable groups.

"There's no need for us to underreport the number of SARS cases," said Liang Wannian, deputy director of the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau. "The primary task of the anti-SARS fight in China is to contain and eradicate the epidemic at an early date, which requires the municipality to continue the strategy of 'leaving no suspected patients out'," Liang noted.

Beijing reported seven new SARS cases on Monday, the first time the daily number hit single digits since daily media reporting of cases began.

However, Liang warned that fluctuations were possible because of unknown factors of the disease. Such fluctuation is likely to continue into the future, meaning that the daily figures may return to the double-digits.

There might be patients with false negative or positive SARS symptoms, because of the lack of a unified definition of the new disease, Liang said.

"No one can be 100 percent sure that the diagnoses are all correct," Liang added. The health-care sector of Beijing will "strictly follow" the definition issued by the Ministry of Health and the State Council, he said.

(Xinhua)

Turn for the Better?

By Chen Ying

As the reported number of confirmed SARS cases plummeted this week, some experts have advised continued caution in facing the epidemic, while others have expressed optimism.

According to a survey published by *Star Daily*, 10 percent fewer respondents consider the situation "very severe" than last week. The same survey showed 69.4 percent of capital citizens are optimistic about the situation, up from 44.1 percent the week before.

"The obvious drop in new confirmed cases shows the city's SARS control efforts have been effective," said Ren Yibin, director of the infection supervision department at the No. 309 Hospital of People's Liberation Army. "I predict there could be no new cases at the middle or end of next month if the government and city

residents maintain vigilance and keep taking effective measures to prevent the spread of the disease."

Zeng Guang, chief epidemic expert at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said, "Because Beijing's epidemic has been in decline, this is a key time for conquering the disease."

However, Zeng added that the dramatic drop in confirmed cases in the capital is not a natural phenomenon. "It's like a forest fire. If we're too optimistic and give up too early, the fire will come back," he said.

According to Zeng, for the protection of everyone's health, people should still wear face masks when in elevators and subway stations or trains, when they go to the hospital, and most importantly when they feel unusually hot or have cold-like symptoms.

China's First Treatment Drug OK'd for Clinical Trial

China's State Food and Drug Administration has approved the clinical use on a trial basis of a drug potentially beneficial in the treatment of SARS.

A source with the administration said Tuesday that the drug, named "Sivelestat Sodium", is a chemical injection which may increase the respiratory capacity of SARS patients, reducing reliance on respirators and thus greatly reducing the incidence of complications such as infection of the respiratory tract and acute damage to

the lungs.

Declining to give any details about the drug's developer, the administration, which received the clinical trial application on May 7, has been conducting further tests on the potential effectiveness of the medicine, the source noted.

Earlier, the administration approved clinical trial-use of two SARS prevention drugs and two reagents used in testing for the SARS virus have been authorized to enter batch production.

(Xinhua)

Airproof Can Offers Portable Isolation

By Lily Li

A multifunctional, airproof can-like container has been invented by Professor Li Qi and his seven-member team from the Institute of Mechanics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. They hope their innovative device will be an effective means of separating SARS victims from others to prevent the spread of the virus.

The stainless steel cabin looks like a shiny trash can and houses a bunk bed, headlamps, an intercom and several garbage disposal bags. An oxygen tank attached outside the cabin allows for oxygen transmission to needy patients.

Patients confined to the cabin

can be monitored by medical personnel through an observation window. The device has small tires that allow it to be moved.

It took professor Li's team one week to perfect the cabin, which received a national patent on April 26. "It can enhance the reliability of quarantine measures and protect doctors and nurses' safety," said Li.

On Thursday, the professor announced the invention is ready for large-scale production and he said he is holding negotiations with possible manufacturers. Li promised to donate some of the cars to hospitals in Beijing and Taiwan when mass-production begins.

Hospital Creates Cheap Breath Filter

By Lily Li

Staff at Beijing Ditan Hospital have invented a small device that can filter exhaled air that may contain the SARS virus. The device should sell for no more than 20 yuan a piece and is now undergoing trial testing.

Wang Jinjing, director of the hospital's anesthesia department and creator of the filter, said the device can be installed using simple medical tools. A tube is attached to patients' oxygen masks, allowing the air they exhale to be diverted to the filter, after which it can be

safely released into the general environment.

"After filtration and cleaning, exhaled air thick with the SARS virus can be made harmless, thereby improving the environment around patients," said Wang.

The device would not only reduce chances of attending doctors and nurses contracting the virus, but also have some benefit for patients. "It can help prevent patients from re-infection and improve the strength of their immune systems," Wang added.



Photo by Aily

An examination room for people with fevers was set up on the eastern side of the Beijing Railway Station Plaza early this month. Doctors in protective outfits and two

cars are on hand all day every day to deal with emergency cases, examine suspected SARS victims and quickly transport them to local hospitals.

(By Lily Li)

Beijing to Step up Quarantines as Floating Population Swells

The Beijing government will step up quarantines of the city's large floating population as more people from outside the capital began reentering the city to find jobs or do business, Ji Lin, deputy director of the Beijing municipal joint leading group on SARS control, said Tuesday.

He added that so far there have been no clustered SARS infections among the floating population in the city. By mid-May, a total of more than 2.6 million people from outside Beijing were living in the city, 600,000

fewer than at the end of April.

The 3,276 construction sites in the city employ more than 640,000 migrant workers from ten provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities outside Beijing.

Ji said the Beijing municipal government has adopted five major measures to prevent the SARS epidemic from spreading among migrant workers, including strictly confining workers' movements to areas within construction sites.

Beijing has also required the

migrant population to register at local neighborhood committees as they rent or move into housing in the city, Ji said. He continued that municipal government personnel would inspect hygienic conditions of rented housing and forbid the lease of housing failing to meet quarantine standards.

According to Jiang, the city government has also asked landlords and employers to shoulder responsibility for SARS control among the floating population.

(Xinhua)



A grade-three student of the No. 4 Middle School in Beijing checks his temperature on his first day back at school on May 22. Grade-three high school students resumed classes on Thursday to prepare for the upcoming college entrance examination scheduled for June 7 to 10. They are the first group of local students to return to their classrooms after the one-month suspension of public schools due to the SARS outbreak.

Xinhua Photo

Steps Taken to Guarantee Safety of Students, Teachers

Beijing will make efforts to prevent the occurrence of a resurgence in SARS among students and teachers after classes resume on May 22, a municipal anti-SARS official said here Tuesday.

Zhu Shanlu, deputy team leader of Beijing's joint anti-SARS team, said the municipal

government will give top priority to the health and safety of students and teachers. Students will return to schools in groups, instead of at one time, as a means of controlling possible SARS spread, he said.

The municipal government has decided to resume the

normal academic schedules at schools and universities and asked that missed lesson be made up, Zhu continued.

He added that students that live in districts with dense populations can continue to study through television or on-line resources.

(Xinhua)

Disease Control Center to be Rebuilt

By Chen Ying

Chinese delegates at the 56th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland said Monday that the Chinese government plans to construct a new disease control center to strengthen its public safety system, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

The new disease control center will be set up on the site of the existing facility in Beijing's Xuanwu District. The government intends to invest around 8 billion yuan in the project, which will be established before 2008.

Inspection of Road and Waterway Prevention Launched

China's Ministry of Communications dispatched four inspection teams under the direction of Vice Minister Hong Shanxiang on Tuesday to some of the areas of the country hardest hit by the SARS epidemic.

The teams will inspect preventative measures taken in road and waterway transport in northern China and bordering areas.

The ministry has adopted a series of measures to strengthen epidemic prevention in the nation's transportation sector, and its personnel will assess the implementation of those measures during the inspections.

All city, county and town-level bus stations and ports are required to register and report passengers' health status and temperatures every day.

To prevent the epidemic from expanding to China's rural areas, the ministry will also strive to educate staff involved in rural transportation and strengthen SARS monitoring work during rural bazaars and at popular fairs.

(Xinhua)

Patients Should Rest Over One Week after Leaving Hospital

By Chen Ying

Friday last week, the Ministry of Health issued a notice regarding recovered SARS patients released from hospital, suggesting they stay at home for one to two weeks and avoid close contact with others.

The ministry has also stipulated that recovered patients can only leave hospital with the approval of medical experts. Moreover, such people need to leave their addresses, workplace and contact numbers with the hospital, information hospital staff should pass on to district or county-level disease control administrations.

According to the ministry, doctors recommend released patients keep track of their condition by checking their temperatures twice a day, in case of possible remission. Hospitals have the right to ask released patients to return for follow-up chest X-rays.

Prevention and Treatment Media Center Opens

By Lily Li

The Media Center of the Beijing Joint Working Team for SARS Prevention and Treatment began operating on Wednesday from an office on the eighth floor of the Beijing Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The center represents a further effort by the Beijing government to provide the public and media with free, up-to-date information on SARS prevention and treatment efforts.

The center has three divisions, news publicizing, network publicizing and expert consultation. It also includes a Journalist Reception Center, set up to provide timely information to domestic and foreign reporters.

The center will handle organizing press conferences, accepting and arranging interviews and releasing SARS news and information to media and international organizations, among other responsibilities.

The same day it opened, the center also launched a website, antisars.beijingportal.com.cn, which offers news and information in both Chinese and English, including government steps and information and stories about preventing SARS.

Bus Stops Return to Place

By Sun Ming

The Beijing Public Transportation Bureau announced on Tuesday that all bus stops near hospitals designated to treat SARS patients have returned to their original locations since Thursday last week. On May 3, bus stops near these hospitals were moved 300 meters from their previous positions in a measure aimed at improving passenger safety.

SARS Family to Donate Blood

By Lily Li

After his elder sister and wife died of SARS, Fang Bo, whose entire family were infected with the virus, called the *Beijing Youth Daily* hotline last Thursday and pledged he and his six other surviving family members would donate blood for the treatment of other SARS patients.

There has been considerable success reported in a treatment that involves giving SARS patients serum produced from blood donated by recovering sufferers, who have built up antibodies after being exposed to the virus.

"The lives of my family members were saved by doctors and nurses at the Beijing Friendship Hospital. We have agreed that the first thing we do after being discharged from hospital will be to donate blood," said Fang.

In March, Fang's sister-in-law and husband came to Beijing from Heilongjiang for a visit. On April 10, the 60-year-old woman developed a high fever and died in hospital several days later.

Her husband also developed a fever in the following days, and on April 16, Fang took his whole family to the hospital, "the only thought in my mind at that time was that

I couldn't go home anymore, as I might infect others," Fang said. The entire family was subsequently diagnosed with SARS.

While Fang wore a T-shirt on those hot summer days in the hospital ward, the doctors and nurses still had to wear several stifling layers of protective clothing. Donations from the public such as food and flowers were all delivered to the patients.

"When my wife died, the hospital even found a psychologist from Beijing An Ding Hospital to come and talk to me," he said.

Fang, who along with the rest of

his family is expected to leave hospital in a week, said although he did not know what those doctors and nurses looked like underneath their protective masks, he felt that they were his dearest friends.

When he learned that a nurse at the hospital had contracted SARS, he discussed the matter with the rest of his family and decided to donate blood.

"Experts said the serum from the blood of recovering patients is of some use to cure the disease. Our lives were saved by them, so, the very least we can do is donate our blood to help treat them," he said.

Leading Hospital for Fever Treatment

By Su Wei

For Beijing Haidian Hospital, transformation from a general hospital to a clinic specializing in fever treatment has meant a degree of financial loss.

Over 100 former patients have either been transferred to other hospitals or sent home. The total amount of deposits received from the over 100 new patients is slightly over 100,000 yuan, far less than the bottom line of 800,000 yuan. The 3,700-square-meter clinic building is currently being used only for patients exhibiting fever symptoms. The construction of a planned new clinic may be delayed or cancelled, due to a lack of funds.

But hospital president Yu Xiaoqian says it was the hospital's own administration that insisted on specializing in this area. "We need to be responsible for people in the district and people in the city as a whole," he said.

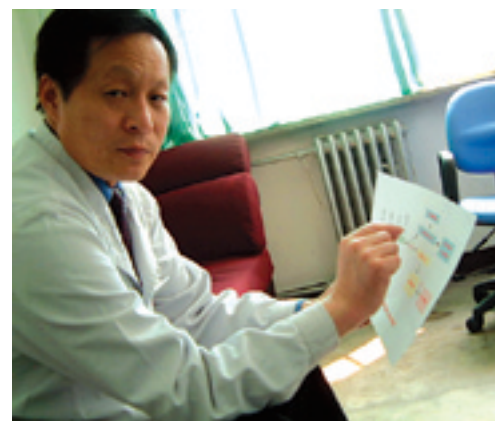
Haidian Hospital is a middle ranking hospital in medical standards compared with other nearby hospitals. "Medical staff at Beijing University No.3 Hospital are more capable than us. They can deal with some difficult diseases. If it had been turned into a hospital for screening potential SARS cases, what would the ordinary people do?" he said.

Yu says the four-day schedule of turning the hospital into a fever clinic did not create too many difficulties, though some chronic patients, especially those bed-ridden ones, were unwilling to leave for home. "We can understand it is not easy for their families to take care of them. But we need to be responsible for their health," he said. "After all the patients had left, we began reorganizing the 23,000-square-meters of ward areas according to the standards for accommodating SARS patients."

Although he is concerned with the prevention of his staff from contracting SARS, Yu says he is not worried about them, as they have experiences in dealing with SARS patients from as early as last month, when the hospital first set up clinics for fevered patients and SARS wards. "What really concerns me is preventing cross-infection among people coming to the hospital."

Every patient admitted to the hospital is given a suit of protective clothing before entering the waiting room for SARS diagnosis. "According to the results of their diagnosis, they are either directed to clinics for treating common fever, or placed under medical observation for SARS," Yu said. "Patients found not to have SARS can get medicine and pay their fees in separate areas from those for suspected and probable SARS patients. Those placed under observation are transferred to the wards through specially designated passageways."

"No matter how cautious we are about preventing cross-infection, some places remain high risk, especially the waiting room," Yu said. "Besides regularly disinfecting the waiting room, cleaning staff are required to disinfect every place patients go to." Every day, the number of newly admitted patients ranges from three to eighteen.



Yu Xiaoqian

Photo by Su Wei



Shi Lingfang

Photo by Cui Jun

Doctor Returns to Help Combat SARS

By Chen Ying / Chen Minglian

Shi Lingfang, 39, a post PhD researcher at the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine department of Stanford University's medical school, is serving temporarily as a volunteer at Ditan Hospital, one of the designated hospitals treating SARS patients.

Shi, who returned from the US last Friday, said he and his Chinese colleagues and friends in the US have been closely following the situation in Beijing since news about SARS first broke. "There were some negative reports in the US before Beijing began to publish the real number of confirmed cases from April 20," he said, adding that when the true situation was revealed, he became even more concerned.

"I didn't want to be just an onlooker. And I thought I should do something, as I have more than ten years experience as a doctor treating pulmonary disease," Shi wrote a letter to the Chinese Embassy in San Francisco on April 25, saying that he wanted to help.

His offer was quickly accepted, and he arrived in Beijing on the evening of May 16 and started working at Ditan Hospital the following day.

Shi said most of his friends supported his decision. His wife and 13-year-old daughter, who are also in the US, were surprised at first, but quickly accepted his decision. Shi said his wife just told him to pay more attention to his health when he phoned her after arriving in Beijing.

"Maybe encouraged by my

action, one of my Chinese colleagues also plans to come back. I hope I can see him soon," he added.

Shi is working at Ditan Hospital's virus research center, assisting with work to clone the coronavirus in order to develop a vaccine. "Though we're at the very beginning of the process, our effort will be useful for the further research to conquer the disease," he said.

Shi said his tutor at Stanford also supported his decision, though their own research project is in its final stages. "My tutor promised to provide some materials and other help if I need it here," He said he intended to stay in Beijing for two months. "Of course, the length of my stay will depend on progress made in controlling the disease."

Renown Film Director Shakes off SARS

By Sun Ming

After 24 days of treatment, renowned movie director Xie Fei recovered from SARS and was discharged from Ditan Hospital on Friday last week.

The 61-year-old director, the oldest SARS patient to be treated at Ditan hospital, will be quarantined at home for two weeks, after which he is to have a check-up at the hospital to make sure there is no relapse.

"Actually, I always firmly believed that I could overcome the disease," Xie told reporters when he walked out of the hospital. He attributed his recovery to an optimistic mind as well as timely medical treatment.

Xie is known as one of the most prominent directors in China. He was awarded Best Director for his 1995 feature film *A Mongolian Tale* at the 19th Montreal World Film Festival. His 1992 feature film *The Women from the Lake*



Xie Fei (left)

Photo by Cui Jun

of *Scented Souls* won the Golden Bear Award at the 1993 Berlin International Film Festival. *Black Snow* (1989), an earlier feature by Xie, won the Silver Bear Award at the 1990 Berlin International Film Festival.

During his hospital stay, Xie's maiden television work, *Sunrise* was broadcast on Beijing Television Station.

Xie entered Ditan Hospital on April 22 and was diagnosed with SARS on April 26. His condition was listed as serious and he experienced severe breathing difficulties for several days. Xie said he believes he might have contracted SARS when he went for an annual health checkup at a hospital in Beijing last month.

Jiang Rongmeng, the doctor who treated Xie, said his patient's recovery greatly inspired him and his colleagues. "He was the oldest SARS patient we have treated. Another six SARS patients over 50 are also now recovering."



Workers from Changping Crematorium transfer the remains of a SARS patient. Photo by Wang Zhenlong

Bring Out Your Dead

By Su Wei

The past month has been the busiest for Li Shijun since he became a hearse driver at Changping Crematorium in 1988. He and his nine colleagues, divided into two teams, are responsible for transferring the remains of deceased SARS patients from around 50 hospitals in Beijing.

"I once made three trips to the same hospital in one afternoon," he said. The Beijing Municipal Government designated Changping and Daxing crematoriums to handle the remains of victims of the deadly virus on April 11. The one at Daxing has been idle since last Thursday due to the improving situation of SARS in Beijing.

Before the end of last month, most hospitals usually asked Li and his colleagues to collect the remains of deceased SARS

patients directly from the wards. "But the government does not allow us to do so. We explained to these hospitals that they should deliver the remains to the hospital mortuary themselves, after having disinfected, labeled and sealed them. But they insisted we move the remains ourselves."

"It is not that we are afraid," Li, a former soldier, said, "But we need to protect ourselves and be responsible for all the staff of the funeral parlour."

Whenever Li and his colleagues collect a dead SARS patient, they disinfect the

hearse four times; before, during and after the transfer, and change their gloves and take off their shoe coverings after moving the remains.

Li says the greatest difficulty they face when transferring the remains of a SARS patient is having to wait around for hours at a time while wearing their two-layer protective suits. He and some colleagues once waited for almost five hours for the remains of a patient, when the hospital could not reach an agreement with the relatives on the disposal of the remains.

"Sometimes I need to go to the toilet. But we cannot enter public toilets when wearing protective clothing, and we do not want to use the toilets in the hospitals, because we think the less contact we have with these hospitals, the less likely we are to be infected."

Generally, they wait for less than one hour. "Before driving to the hospital, we confirm that all the formalities have been completed, the remains are already in mortuary and the death certificate is held by the staff at the mortuary."

The day that *Beijing Today* interviewed Li was the first time in a month he has spent time with his seriously ill father. "My family did not tell me my father had a brain tumor till Monday last week, one day before the scheduled date for his operation." He says his father insisted that he continue his work.



Photo by Gloom

100th Recovered Patient Leaves Ditan Hospital

By Chen Ying

Li Fengxian, the hundredth recovered SARS patient at Ditan Hospital was discharged Wednesday. Li is a doctor at Huairou No.1 Hospital and contracted the disease while working on April 7. She was transferred to Ditan Hospital on April 26. A total of 20 recovered patients left the hospital Wednesday, including eight medical staff and five students. The hospital has admitted 282 patients since March 26, 106 of whom have since been cured and left the hospital.

China's Premier: Combat SARS, Secure Reforms

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao warned against excessive optimism over the decline of SARS in the country and called for continuing efforts to protect economic development.

Addressing a plenary meeting of the State Council on Wednesday this week, Wen said the SARS situation across the country had been stabi-

lizing, but fighting the epidemic remains arduous, because new cases had been reported every day in some areas and the numbers of confirmed or suspected cases were still high. In addition, there was still no effective prevention, diagnosis or cure for the disease.

Wen identified six major areas

where the country should focus its efforts for the rest of the year to make up for the losses caused by SARS.

They are boosting domestic demand and implementing a proactive fiscal policy, helping and supporting the worst-hit industries and sectors, promoting foreign trade

and assisting foreign investors with normal production, providing more jobs and social security to ensure the living standards of Chinese people, securing the normal operation of the nation's economy and production, and insisting on further reforms and development.

(Xinhua)

Nine Measures to Heat Up Local Market

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing's municipal government issued nine measures this week to support the enterprises hit hardest by SARS, mostly in the city's service sector. The nine policies will be available between May 1 and Sept 30.

The retail, tourism and entertainment, hotel and restaurant industries are granted five months to postpone the payment of social welfare fees for their employees once applications are registered.

These enterprises as well as construction companies can apply to the government finance and labor security agencies for temporary payment of basic incomes (290 yuan in Beijing) for their employees, as long as these enterprises certify they cannot make the payments because of SARS.

Rental prices for state-owned real estate properties used by enterprises and individuals will be cut by 50 percent for those who have been forced to shut down their businesses. A deduction of 30 percent will be available for those business that have been able to continue but have suffered heavy losses.

Body temperature testing facilities will be installed at the entrances of large shopping centers, and long distance passenger transportation hubs.

Sufficient capital will be made available to secure the operation of major industrial manufacturing projects, such as automobile manufacturing and SARS related equipment developing and manufacturing.

Financial subsidies are also available for export-oriented enterprises. For every \$100 in exports, a one yuan subsidy will be provided (3 yuan for every dollar for software exports).

Short-term loans and half price credit guarantee fees will be given to enterprises in the service sector, including retail, hotels and restaurants, public entertainment and public transportation.

Costs for the research of new technologies and products for SARS prevention and medical treatment will be exempt from taxation.

The municipality, district and county owned travel agencies can apply for interest reimbursement for loans acquired by the agencies for their employees' salaries, individual health protection payment and expenditure for the prevention of SARS.



SARS Scanners Protect Business

By Lily Li

Since Tuesday, installation of 400 temperature examination machines has begun in large department stores, supermarkets and some restaurants around town.

The machines were purchased by the Beijing government for 6.6 million yuan. The government then supplied

the devices free-of-charge to restaurants and stores with floor areas of over 10,000 square meters.

The installation is one of the nine policies adopted by the municipal government to help alleviate the worst effects of the SARS crisis. It comes as the flow of customers in shopping malls and restaurants rises. Figures show that

the volume of business per day has increased by 20 percent over the week.

Among the first places given the machines were the Beijing Wangfujing Department Store and the Wangfujing branch of the Qianjude Roast Duck Restaurant and the Cui Hualou and Sha Guoju restaurants in the Xidan area.

Xinhua Photo

Business Lives on Transparency

By Zhao Hongyi

To get a picture of the foreign business community in Beijing during the SARS storm, *Beijing Today* reached Joerg Wuttke, chairman of the German Chamber of Commerce in China, who told us the current situation of his member companies and what they think about the future after SARS.

Question: Since SARS erupted in Beijing, what measures have German companies taken?

Answer: Most German companies have provided masks and increased education on prevention of SARS. Some large companies have asked staff to work from home, so that in case of a confirmed SARS case the operation would be able to keep on working.

Q: Has any German expat left Beijing so far? Have they returned?

A: Very few left for Germany and most have returned by now.

The German school did not close, which was an important signal for the German community.

Q: During April and May, have German companies here shut down



Joerg Wuttke, chairman of the German Chamber of Commerce in China.

their offices or production?

A: To my knowledge, only four or five German companies closed for a couple of days, and then partly because they were taking advantage of the Easter vacation and May holidays. Production of German-backed factories continue.

Q: What are the expectations of these companies towards the market prospects in Beijing and China

11 percent.

Fan Gang, professor of economics at Beijing University, was similarly upbeat. He forecasts a GDP growth figure of 7.5 to 8 percent. His argument was that China's GDP growth in the first three months reached 10 percent, which laid a sound foundation for the whole year's performance.

"In fact, we would have needed to cool down the overheated growth of the first quarter, if SARS hadn't come along," said Fan.

Fan pointed out that SARS



Mr Fan also works as the director of the National Economic Research Institute. Photo by Photocom

after SARS?

A: The second quarter will see a decline in demand. We hope that the third quarter will be stable and that consumption will rise. The fourth quarter should be normal. The most important thing is that our Chinese customers that are focusing on exports do not lose business due to travel restrictions.

Q: Are there further business development initiatives under way by these companies in the near future, say the second half of the year?

A: Some German companies have additional stock in case their suppliers have a production problem due to SARS.

Businesses that were badly hit, like hotels, airlines and tourism are trying to prepare for a hopefully hectic second half, in which many companies will try to make up for lost business opportunities in the second quarter.

It all boils down to one issue: can SARS be contained and can we trust the data. Business lives from transparency and information. The slightest doubt nowadays has more downward significance than it used to.

had only become serious in a few provinces so far. Even in the worst-hit areas, losses were concentrated on the service sectors. Agriculture and industrial production have not been badly hurt.

Fan argues that the whole year's GDP performance will depend on how effectively the disease is contained. If this can be achieved within the next two months, everything will return virtually to normal. If not, a long-term market recession could result, but not before the beginning of next year.

Keeping Things Running

By Ayi

The municipal government established a cargo transportation coordination office to help companies and ventures to maintain smooth transportation of raw materials and finished products nationwide.

The 24-hour service office will collaborate with the representative offices of other provinces in Beijing, and provides up-to-date market information.

The office has two hotlines: 8523 5023 and 8523 5024.

SARS to Cut Tax Bill by 20-30 Billion Yuan

By Ayi

SARS will reduce China's tax income by 20-30 billion yuan this year, estimates Zhang Peisen, a senior researcher of the State Administration of Taxation.

The figure is accumulated from the estimated GDP losses this year and the tax reduction issued by the central government last week for the industries and sectors hit hardest by SARS, said Zhang.

The total tax income for the first four months this year has reached 707.7 billion yuan so far.

MOF to Stimulate Exports

By Ayi

The Ministry of Finance is discussing with other state ministries to step up the pace of export tariff reimbursement in order to stimulate China's exports, stabilize production industry and increase employment.

Japanese Factories Closed in SARS Alert

Two Beijing-based factories of the Japanese electronics giant Matsushita have been closed temporarily after five cases of SARS were found.

By Wednesday this week, another four suspected cases had been found at the factories that produce color TV kinescopes and lights under the Panasonic brand, and 28 other staff members reported having a fever. 53 people who had close contact with the SARS patients had been quarantined.

The Matsushita factories are the only two foreign-invested enterprises that have closed so far due to SARS fears in Beijing.

The municipal government officials took immediate measures to disinfect the factories. Matsushita said the reopening of the factories would depend on the SARS situation and it had no specific plans.

(Xinhua)

Motorola Promises Continued Investment

By Yang Liu / Ayi

Motorola signed a memorandum with the municipal government for a \$90 million investment in a technology research center in the city on May 17, the UN's Telecommunications Day. Motorola promised follow-up investment of \$500 million in the next five years as well.

The visiting Motorola president and CEO Mike Zafirovski signed the bill with Wang Qishan, acting mayor of Beijing. Mr Zafirovski donated 11.8 million yuan in cash and equipment to the city for the fight against SARS.



On behalf on Motorola China, Zafirovski donated 11 million yuan in cash and 8 million yuan worth equipment to Beijing for SARS fighting.

Photo provided by Ynet.com

Zhongguancun to Protect In-Park Business Startups

By Ayi

Zhongguancun Science Park, which is in Beijing SARS hotspot Haidian district, has promised to use its five special funds to protect the thousands of small and medium size hi-tech business startups under incubation, to support SARS related research and development, and to help overseas multinationals with roots in the park.

Zhang Guilin, deputy director of the park management committee, promised his committee will release the five specified funds simultaneously to support the companies and enterprises hampered by SARS. The funds were launched years ago to support the business startups, small and medium sized enterprises, startups of overseas Chinese students and publicly listed companies in the park.

"We want to keep them alive and staying in the park," said Zhang. "Our target is to maintain a double digit industrial output growth (in the park) in the first half of this year."

Local Economists Demonstrate Optimism and Confidence

By Zhao Hongyi

While overseas economists and market analysts are adjusting their predictions for China's economic growth rate this year in light of SARS, with some putting it at 4.5 or 6 percent, local Chinese economists seem more optimistic and confident.

Yu Xiuqing, an economist and also the spokeswoman of the Beijing Statistics Bureau, pointed out that Beijing's GDP reached 95 billion yuan in the first four months of this year, an increase of 12 percent from last year.

Certain service sectors - in particular, telecommunications, insurance and real estate - has seen rapid growth even under the pressure from SARS, according to Yu.

Demand in Beijing remained healthy. "It will continue to drive economic expansion," said Yu.

Major growth areas include housing property, rapidly expanding industrial production capability and construction of facilities for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Yu forecast Beijing's GDP growth this year would be

Aggressive SARS Faker Gets Two Years



Zhang Yuexin

By Sun Ming / Chen Ying

The trial of China's first criminal case associated with SARS opened at Beijing Haidian District People's Court on Wednesday and the defendant was sentenced to two years in prison for assault the same day.

Zhang Yuexin, 31, a bus driver with Beijing Yuntong Company, refused to pay for 69.2 yuan of snacks he bought from a vending vehicle on April 24. He then claimed to have SARS and threatened the two salespersons in the vehicle with a paring knife.

Zhang's case was also the first criminal trial held after China's Supreme Court and the Supreme

People's Procuratorate issued a document on Thursday last week regarding legal interpretation of cases related to the hampering of prevention and control of the SARS epidemic. That document provides a clear legal basis for the severe punishment of any criminal activities perpetrated during the crisis.

"I was just joking when I said I had SARS," Zhang told the court. "Also, I wasn't going to stab anybody with the knife, I just wanted to scare them."

Saleswoman Zhou Guizhi said in court that she and her co-worker Hao Lixin were very frightened by Zhang's act.

"In addition, several customers ran away as soon as Zhang said he had SARS. Zhang then left without paying and shouted that all food should be free while the SARS situation is grave," she told the court. "I followed him, but kept a certain distance, and tried to ask for my money back."

Zhou's co-worker Hao dialed 110 and Haidian police quickly arrived and then captured Zhang.

Because it is the first criminal case since the issuance of the Supreme Court's document, Zhang's case has attracted inordinate attention from the local media and the court proceedings were broadcast live on CCTV.

Monk Hoodwinked by Impostor TV Man

By Cui Yan / Su Wei

Pei Lintong, an unemployed rural migrant living in Beijing, managed to scam a monk from Guangdong Province out of over 100,000 yuan in 2002 using a false name and position.

Pei first met the monk, Zhuang Guowang, in September 2000 during a visit to the Qujiang County Culture Museum in Guangdong. Pei claimed to be a program director for CCTV's economic news and said he had close ties to some senior government officials. He also gave Zhuang his phone number in case the monk wanted to contact him in the future.

In early 2002, when Zhuang became a member of a team leading the restoration of Changding Temple, a historical landmark in Guangdong, he thought Pei could help them with central government approval and in amassing funding for the project.

He called Pei, who said he could get the approval and the funding without any problems, but added that some money would be needed up front. "He also told me that several days before I called, he'd met the general director of State Administration for Religious Affairs," Zhuang said in court last week.

Over the following five months, Pei talked Zhuang into turning over two payments totaling 105,000 yuan.

Zhuang began regularly calling Pei in August 2002 to get updates on progress with the approval and funding. "Each time I called, he told me that he couldn't say because the general director was either having a meeting or on a business trip," recalled the monk.

Fearing he had been had, Zhuang came to Beijing in October to find Pei. After a long search, he was able to arrange a meeting, at which Pei returned 20,000 yuan when the monk questioned him. Zhuang was not able to locate Pei again.

This February, Pei was caught by police from the Haidian Branch of Beijing Public Security and confessed to the scam. Last Wednesday, he was sentenced to seven years in prison, one without political rights, and a fine of 7,000 yuan.

Notary Says No to Impostor

By Tong Ying / Su Wei

Last week, a retired military official hired a girl to act as his daughter and tried to trick local government officers into giving him the right to sell an apartment owned by his real daughter, currently overseas.

Last Monday, a young woman whose face was covered by a mask and a pair of eyeglasses and a man in his 70s entered the Fengtai Notary Office. The man said his name was Xiao Jun and introduced the young woman as his daughter, Xiao Hong (pseudonyms).

The woman told office staff she wanted to entrust her father to sell the apartment because she lives in Australia, but drew more attention for her persistent cough. She told people at the notary office that she had a cold.

Office staff found nothing irregular in the identification presented by the pair, but were surprised to find that the daughter knew almost nothing about the apartment when questioned. Queries about the size of the apartment and when it was purchased were all answered by the father, who said he bought the apartment for Xiao Hong.

The following day, office employees called the Xiao's home, claiming to be old friends of Xiao Hong. Her mother told them her daughter had been in Australia for two years.

They then called Xiao Jun and Xiao Hong. The father confessed that he and his daughter had long been thinking of selling the apartment, but were worried about a regulation requiring notarization before entrusting was possible.

He also admitted that he thought the SARS epidemic presented a perfect opportunity, since so many people are wearing face masks, so he found a girl with similar facial structure and hair style to his daughter and hired her to be an impostor. However, Xiao Jun refused to disclose where he found her.

In the end, the notary office did not stamp the forms and let the father and "daughter" leave after warning them to obey the law.



Briton Ditas Amry hanging cranes at the China Millennium Monument on Sunday

Photo by Wang Jianwei

Blessings Fly on Paper Wings

By Sun Ming

Around fifty people, Chinese and foreign, congregated at the China Millennium Monument on Sunday and hung nearly 100,000 colorful paper cranes from the fence around the area.

"We know that paper cranes are symbols of peace in some Asian country, so we came here to fold some cranes to pray for Beijing's safety," Ditas Amry of the UK told assembled reporters as she tied a blessing card to a cluster of paper cranes.

On May 18, Amry, a teacher from the English First English language training school in Beijing, launched the "100,000 paper cranes action" along with three colleagues, Brits Sami Janssens and Mike Robinson and Chinese-American Stephen Chow Yang.

Robinson said, "We hope Beijing will succeed in the fight against SARS soon, and that all SARS patients will recover and all medical workers will be safe."

With the help of their Chinese colleagues, the four

expats' idea blossomed into reality. In the period of one week, over 20,000 volunteers, including English First teachers and students along with neighboring residents and college students, assembled the fleet of cranes.

On Sunday, the four expats also went to the Chaoyang District Women and Children's Health Care Center, a designated hospital for the treatment of SARS patients, and hung hundreds of paper cranes and cards on the hospital's fence.

Biz Students Learn in Lake

By Chen Huiying

On May 17, Beijing University's Beijing International MBA (BiMBA) classes resumed, but in an unconventional venue, a traditional boat floating on Kunming Lake in the Summer Palace.

Kate Combellick, a professor from the US' Fordham University, is leading the floating classes on business communication, attended by 50 students.

All students must have their temperatures taken before being allowed to get onto the boat, which can seat up to 120 people.

The classes run for three hours, and the boat docks to let students get out and stretch their legs nearly every hour.

Hu Dayuan, Chinese Dean of the BiMBA program, says that the boat lectures are intended as a means of tackling the SARS problem. Because of the disease, part-time MBA students are not allowed to enter the university's normal campus and the boat seemed a safe alternative.

The program has also booked an outdoor teahouse inside the walls

of the Yuanmingyuan, the old Summer Palace, where Combellick began teaching the same course to a group of 30 full-time MBA students on May 19.

In April and May, four foreign professors teaching in the BiMBA program decided to switch to long-distance lectures or postponed their

courses.

Despite the city's SARS crisis, and against the advice of some of her friends back home, Combellick arrived in Beijing on May 13. "I feel that Beijing is pretty safe, not dangerous as it has been described by the American press," she said.



Kate Combellick, a professor from the US' Fordham University, leads a floating class on business communication

Photo by Wei Tong

Visa Services Business as Usual

By Lily Li

The Australian, British, Canadian and US embassies in Beijing are maintaining normal visa services and have not stopped processing visa applications in response to the SARS outbreak.

According to a posting on the website of the Australian embassy, while that country's government has implemented screening procedures for people planning to travel to Australia, the required medical examination has not changed as a result of SARS.

The website of the United States Embassy and Consulates General in China says there are no new or additional requirements for applying for visas at this time, according to the embassy's website. However, the embassy has also announced that as of April 21, all people applying for nonimmigrant visas at the US Embassy in Beijing must use the latest version of the English-Chinese application form.

Canadian schools will inform Chinese students in advance if they will be required to pass through quarantine.

Money Launderers Look to Protect Cash

By Lily Li

Although there have been no reported cases of SARS contraction from infected banknotes, some Beijingers have invented their own way of laundering money by soaking bills in disinfecting liquid for a few minutes.

Local banks have been receiving increasing amounts of such marinated money, the surfaces of which are coarse and cannot be read by counterfeit detectors. "The machines emit alarms when you put in these bills, but from their watermarks and metal lines you can tell they are real," Liu Yuling, an employee of the Bank of China Beijing University Third Hospital Branch, told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

Liu and her workmates now have to check all such money by hand, further slowing work after the bank issued a policy that customers should wait outside to prevent the possible spread of SARS.

She said that the bank has had to refuse some bills because there was no way to confirm they were not counterfeit, to clients' consternation.

Others have expressed more understanding, including a businessman who told *Beijing Today* that SARS prevention is top priority right now. He admitted to dipping money he receives everyday into liquid disinfectant for psychological reassurance.

Some epidemic prevention experts support the sanitizing of banknotes, but say the best way is to simply spray the surface of bills with disinfecting solution.

Origins of Ancient Tomb Occupant Identified

By Sun Ming

DNA analysis has shown that the occupant of the Laoshan tomb in Beijing, whose body



The computer model of the occupant of the Laoshan tomb

dates back to the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), was from central China, not the country's western regions as previously believed.

The findings were announced by researchers from Jilin University in Changchun, Jilin Province on Wednesday last week.

The skeletal remains, of a woman scientists believe was the wife of a duke of the Western Han Dynasty, were unearthed in August 2000 near the Yongding River in western Beijing. The woman was probably around 30 years old when she died and was buried.

Starting October last year, Jilin University researchers used computers to put together a three-dimensional model of the woman's original face and studied her physique and DNA, looking for genetic and anthropological evidence of her ties to the Han royal family.

"This research will enrich the gene bank of ancient Chinese people and help biologists look into how we have evolved," said Zhu Hong, leader of the university's project.

When the computer model of her face was completed in December, her distinctive features led the researchers to believe she was from central China, an assumption proven correct by DNA analysis.

Overseas Publishers Cautious

By Shan Jinliang

Foreign publishing groups have started low-profile talks with private Chinese companies to move into the books and periodicals retail market.

To fulfill its WTO commitments, China allowed foreign investors to enter the books and periodicals retail trade from May 1 this year. China Press and Publishing Administration vice director Liu Binjie told CCTV on May 10 that seven foreign companies had expressed a desire to open businesses in China, namely Bertelsmann, Germany's Books Information Center, UK-based Pearson Longman Group, the US-based McGraw-Hill Group, Japan's Hakuyosha, Cambridge University Press and Singa-

pore's SNP Publishers.

Chief representative of Magraw-Hill China office Jiang Feng told *Beijing Today* that the company's China office was a liaison center and had no immediate plans to get into the retail market. Bertelsmann reluctantly confirmed to *Beijing Today* Tuesday that it had handed in a business application to the Chinese authorities, but it declined to offer more details.

Bertelsmann quietly entered the book retail market with the establishment of two book club centers in Beijing and six in Shanghai in partnership with local companies in the late 1990s.

According to the government's application procedure, it would take at least

three months for foreign companies to gain approval for a joint venture. Zhang Wei, an analyst from CCTV, said that with no stores or other sales outlets, foreign companies would have to choose local private stores to establish joint ventures with. Private bookstores are currently enjoying fast growth and they would offer better prices to foreign companies than state-owned partners. Vice director Liu Binjie said this January that except for the area of teaching materials, private stores had almost caught up with state-owned stores in revenues around China.

After the May Day holiday, dozens of companies came to consult the Beijing Press and Publishing Bureau, but none

registered to file an application form, and it was the same in Shanghai and Guangdong. Zhang said the foreign companies might be put off from entering the market by the likelihood that Chinese authorities would favor companies from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. He said it might be a while before overseas companies entered the market in strength.

But a number of overseas companies have secretly started talks with Chinese bookstores about the book retail market. Tu Yuyan, Executive President of Xishu Bookstores, the largest private bookstore chain in China with over 500 branches, told *Beijing Today* that her company has been in discussion with four foreign companies including McGraw-Hill.

Fixed-line Operators Reach Full Connectivity

By Shan Jinliang

China's two biggest fixed-line operators, China Telecom and China Netcom, finally reached an agreement on the full connectivity of their regional networks last Saturday.

The agreement was reached on the UN's World Telecom Day, just one day after the two companies agreed to split their telecom businesses along the axis of the Yangtze River: China Netcom will operate in north China's 10 municipalities, provinces and autonomous regions, while China Telecom will operate in the other 21 regions in south China. The deal also confirms Telecom's status as China's No.1 fixed-line operator.

It was another step for the Chinese authorities in carving up the former monopoly of China Telecom in the sector.

As *Beijing Today* reported on April 18, China Netcom had begun to establish subsidiaries in 21 Guangdong prefectures and cities this April, which raised the prospect of battling with Telecom for market share in the south.

But two months later, China Telecom and Netcom reached agreement and connected their regional networks. *Beijing Youth Daily* commented on May 18 that ordinary consumers would enjoy more options in choosing long-distance, digital and dial-up services, saying it was inevitable that the two companies would fight first for group consumers and then for individual consumers.

Industry experts warn full connectivity still might not be available as the local telecom subsidiaries in Henan Province and Gansu Province and other regions would cut into the regional networks of other telecom operators. This competition in regional coverage has created problems and losses for telecom users for a long time. To enforce regional network connectivity, the ministry issued a notice this April, warning that any intentional act to block connectivity could face civil penalties.



That one, no that one! er...

Xinhua Photo

PHS Hit by SARS

By Shan Jinliang

In a bid to strike a blow in the fierce competition with China Mobile and Unicom handsets, China Netcom's Beijing branch, Beijing Communications, marked the UN's World Telecom Day of May 17 with the promotion of its PHS (Personal Handy-access System) mobile phones in downtown areas of Beijing. But it all went horribly wrong.

SARS effect

The direct cause was SARS. PHS mobile phones, a kind of wireless extension of fixed line phones, already faced stiff competition from China's two leading mobile phone operators, China Mobile and Unicom, but it was hoped PHS could break into the elite with its low fees and one-way charge. Over 13 million PHS handsets have been sold around China but the market where it was most important to have an impact was in Beijing's downtown areas.

According to a source in Beijing Communications, SARS affected the telecom network construction for PHS. Around 12,000

signal-receiving stations are needed for PHS to cover the whole city, but when there are insufficient stations, the call quality is reduced. This made it impossible to rake in big numbers of customers, so the company decided to abort its large-scale promotion of PHS handsets. "It would be better to postpone the promotion of PHS mobile handsets in downtown Beijing," the source told *Economic Observer* on May 12.

Still, on May 17, Beijing Communications announced that it would open its PHS telecom network for customers such as governmental bodies, hospitals and other public health organizations. It also donated 5,000 PHS handsets to Beijing's hospitals as a means of promotion.

China Mobile and Unicom respond

To curb the growth of PHS handsets in downtown Beijing, Beijing Unicom (a subsidiary of China Unicom) issued preferential policies to consumers in the capital by cutting some of its call fees by 40 percent.

In the 10 rural Beijing districts and

counties where PHS phones were sold from early March, Beijing Mobile (the Beijing subsidiary of China Mobile) offered a promotion of its fee charging services to users, and Mobile offered discounts to its users as well.

Profits from Shanghai and Guangzhou

Also on May 17, Shanghai Telecom began to issue PHS handsets in two Shanghai districts. In the first two days, 200 residents bought the PHS handsets. In Guangzhou, which has recently seen a decline in SARS cases, PHS handsets were hot sellers in the city's eight districts from April 29; 8,120 new numbers were issued on the first day, according to Guangzhou Mobile.

According to *Economic Observer*, a China Telecom official who requested anonymity said that as technologically transitional products, PHS handsets could thrive in 2003 and 2004 if unpredictable technology problems were solved.

Unfortunately, PHS handsets seemed to be on the decline from late April nationwide. But now, with the apparent stabilization of SARS in Beijing and other areas of the country, China Netcom is gearing up for a new promotion program.

Coca-Cola Grabs Yao

By Shan Jinliang

The world's two leading soft drinks producers, Coca-Cola and Pepsi, have become embroiled in a new sponsorship battle, this time over Chinese basketball sensation Yao Ming. The same thing happened last year when both Pepsi and Coca-Cola sponsored Chinese football teams.

Pepsi sponsored China's National Football League

First Division in 2002, and Coca-Cola responded by sponsoring the Chinese National Football Team for the 2002 World Cup.

This year, after Yao Ming made a bright start as China's first basketball star in the NBA, he signed up with Pepsi, alongside superstar athletes like Michael Jordan.

Late bird catches worm

Earlier this month, a group portrait with Yao in the center and two other Chinese basketball players beside him, was printed on Coca-Cola beverage bottles.

This puzzled Yao's fans, who thought their hero was loyal to Pepsi. Actually, China Sports Brokerage Corporation, agents of China National Men's Basketball Team, signed a three-year contract with Coca-Cola, and the

contract allows the company to use group portraits of the team for commercial use.

Yao and his agents said they should have been asked for permission to use Yao's name, so they protested last week. Yao issued an official statement on May 15, saying "I have never authorized Coca-Cola to use my name or portrait for commercial use on its products, and I extend a severe protest against this act. I have asked Coca-Cola to suspend using my name and portrait on their products and brochures." Yao's agents said they were considering legal action to safeguard his interests.

Oral battle

Pepsi stood behind Yao but made no comment. Coca-Cola responded, saying they had sponsored the England and US Basketball teams and did

not need consent from individual players to use their pictures.

Coca-Cola added that the State Sport General Administration had issued a notice, saying all intangible assets of the state players including their portrait rights are subject to the state, and Yao, as member of the state team, is no exception. But legal experts say players' portrait ownership rights are still a blank field of law.

Compromise

The war has not escalated so far. Zhang Mingji, one of Yao's agents, told the press they had received a message of "active sincerity" from Coca-Cola on Monday, and China Sports Brokerage Corporation said the two sides were discussing an amicable settlement.

Pepsi paid Yao tens of millions of yuan for a three-year contract, but it seems Coca-Cola has attained similar marketing benefit for a much lower outlay.

China Exports First Locally Made Intel Pentium 4 CPUs

By Shan Jinliang

Intel Corp announced it had begun shipping its Pentium 4 microprocessors from an assembly plant in Shanghai last Thursday. It was the first time for Intel to ship its microprocessors from China.

Intel said in a statement that the shipments began on schedule, a year after Intel Chief Executive Craig Barrett announced plans to add an additional production line to the plant to handle microprocessors.

Previously, the assembly and test facility in Shanghai's Waigaoqiao Trade Zone handled only flash memory devices and chipsets. These products are supplied to Intel customers worldwide.

Intel also said it had started establishing its high-tech Research and Development Center within its factory in Waigaoqiao Trade Zone. It has a few other R&D centers in the factories in Malaysia, Philippines, Costa Rica and Arizona in the US.

Fang Xingdong, chairman of Internet Lab, a local IT consultancy, said Intel was hoping to gain preferment in the governmental procurement and preferential tax policy decisions by producing its microprocessors locally in China.

Intel, the world's largest chipmaker, has invested a total of \$500 million in building and expanding the Shanghai facility.

Second Ikea Assembled in Beijing

By Ema Ma

At a signing ceremony with local partners last Friday, Ikea revealed construction of its second Beijing store is on schedule. This will be its third store in China after the two established in Shanghai and Beijing in 1998 and 1999.

The new store, located in Wangjing in the north east of Beijing will have investment of \$60 million. It will also provide 500 to 700 new jobs.

"Four more stores will be set up in Beijing before 2007, with total investment of over \$250 million. Furthermore, we plan to open about 10 stores nationwide by 2010 in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen," Lan Duffy, the General Manager of Ikea China said at the ceremony.

Other foreign retailers are also speeding up their shop construction in Beijing. "The original plan to introduce 10 new joint venture retail outlets has not been delayed by SARS," Liang Wei, the director of Beijing Commerce Commission said.

Wal-Mart will open on time in June. France's Auchan and Britain's B&Q are also proceeding with their plans. Germany's Metro is currently grappling with the approval procedures. Thailand's Lotus chain store is talking with local partners and plans to open one or two stores by the end of this year. Hong Kong's Vanguard has decided on the location of three shops slated to open before the end of this year. 7-Eleven and DIA discount store have also submitted joint venture plans to the government for approval.



Yum yum.

Xinhua Photo

Shanghai Says Yum!

By Shan Jinliang

Yum! Brands, the world's largest fast food company, introduced its fourth brand, Taco Bell, to China by officially opening its first Taco Bell restaurant in Shanghai on Wednesday.

Taco Bell is the third largest of Yum's five brands after KFC and Pizza Hut (the other two are Long John Silvers and A&W). It is also the largest Mexican fast-food chain in the world. China's KFC outlets have promoted Mexican chicken rolls in a bid to test Chinese people's fondness for this kind of food.

Since Yum! Brands opened its first KFC restaurant in Beijing in 1987, over 800 KFC stores had opened in China by this January. There are around 100 Pizza Hut stores in China, but A&W has not been quite so successful. Three of the eight A&W outlets opened in Beijing in 1996 were closed in October last year.



Photo by BQB



China Accused of Dumping Again

By Ena Ma

Just as it was totting up the profits from its May vacation price-cut promotion, Changhong, China's biggest color television maker, received a fax saying it was about to be investigated for unfair trade in America, in other words dumping cheap TV sets.

The fax, from China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products (CCCME), detailed a petition filed on May 2 by a company and two labor unions based in the US to the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) requesting that the commission conduct an investigation with a view to potential imposition of antidumping duties on certain color TV companies in China and Malaysia.

Other Chinese TV manufacturers like TCL, Konka, Skyworth and Haier are also on the American blacklist.

The three petitioners - Five Rivers Electronic Innovations (FREI), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Machine, Furniture and Salaried, Workers-Communications Workers of America (IUE-CWA) - alleged that TV imports from China and Malaysia are sold in the US at prices below what it costs to produce them. This practice of selling at less than fair value is known as "dumping" and, over time, can seriously injure or destroy an entire industry. In addition, US workers lose jobs when their employers are forced to compete with unfair imports, which pressure US manufacturers to lower prices in what is usually a futile attempt to maintain market share.

The petition requests the consideration of antidumping duties ranging to 84% on TVs from China and up to 46% on TVs from Malaysia. "These duties, which are equal to the amount of the price discrimination alleged by the petitioners, would eliminate the dumping and allow the supply and demand mechanics to return to normal," said David A. Hartquist, lead counsel for the petitioners.

TV exports to the US from China in 2002 amounted to \$486 million, with \$321 million of that trade conducted in the latter half of 2002. This makes it the biggest antidumping case in China's history.

Why now?

The petitioners claim that TV

They just want to stop us from growing while we're still in the cradle.'

— Sun Guangrong
the manager of Xococo,
Brand Promotion Division

imports from China and Malaysia rocketed from 209,887 units in 2000 to 2,656,456 units in 2002.

"Such an increase within a three-year period is highly unusual. These numbers, plus the resulting injury to the US manufacturers and their workers, clearly justify the bringing of these cases," said Hartquist.

Moreover, the increase shows no sign of abating. Latest figures from the China Household Electrical Appliances Association indicated that first quarter exports this year to the US have increased by 37.4 percent to \$860 million from last year.

The US is the biggest overseas market for China's TV makers and is a vital market, considering China's own high-end TV consumers are still relatively few. Also, the EU's hostility to Chinese TV producers will take a while to fade, following recent antidumping sanctions taken against China.

As shown in 2002 annual reports just released by China's major TV companies, unprecedented revenue growth from overseas markets is the key to their strong performance last year. Changhong, the top exporter to the US with an 88.2 percent share of China's total TV exports to the US last year, stated that \$669.24

million of its sales came from overseas and accounted for 44 percent of its total revenue; the proportion of revenue from overseas sales was only 8.6 percent in 2001.

"The growth of China's high-end TV manufacturing is also a cause," one source from a TV company told China Economic Times.

America's transition from analog to digital television (DTV) began last year and most analog TVs will be obsolete by 2006. The US-based Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) said that sales of DTVs in 2002 increased by 61 percent to \$4.2 billion from the previous year. The CEA also predicts the increase will be 52 percent this year and 45 percent next year.

The US has become the biggest consumer of high end TVs in the world and China is in a strong position to satisfy this demand.

"So it is not a coincidence that the petition occurred on the heels of the first batch of 18 thousand high definition TVs which arrived in America on April 28. They just want to stop us from growing while we're still in the cradle," Sun Guangrong, the manager of Xococo, Brand Promotion Division said in an interview with China Central Tele-

vision.

"As a matter of fact, it is not a serious threat to America's TV industry as the petition claims, but to companies from Europe, Japan and Korea in the US market," Sun added.

Sun's comments received wide backing in China. The media was quick to accuse Philips and Thompson, two appliance conglomerates from Europe, of being the manipulators behind the scenes. Philips and Thompson immediately rebutted the accusation.

"Although we have never dumped products in the US, we cannot rule out the possibility that some of our overseas sales agents may take this aggressive measure," a high level source from one of the Chinese TV producers disclosed in an interview with Securities Times. Some media reports have suggested that this practice has been carried out by Changhong's US agent, APEX, which is well known for its rock-bottom price strategy.

"Poor business sentiment and underemployment in the US is one reason why two labor unions are involved this time," said Zhang Hailin, a professor at the University of International Business and Economics. "They need a scapegoat from beyond their

own border for America's 6 percent unemployment rate."

Not again...

China's TV makers have grown accustomed to frustration in overseas markets.

In 1988, the EU began an investigation into China's TV manufacturers. The investigation concluded ten years later with the imposition of a 44.6 percent antidumping tariff. The high duties would have blocked Chinese companies from the EU market for many years but last year, a bilateral agreement was signed for a quota of 400 thousand TV sets each year. But this is not enough to satisfy China's bigger appetite for the market.

A passive attitude was blamed as the reason for this reversal, so now more direct tactics are going to be employed.

Fight together!

Coordinated by China's Ministry of Commerce, all the accused TV companies have agreed to entrust CCCMME as the representative of China's TV industry in the battle against the dumping charge.

Nine major domestic producers have responded to the petition.

"There are several tough objectives facing China's companies," Li Yong, the manager of Xococo, Overseas Division, said

in an interview with China Economic Times. "One is to challenge the qualifications of the petitioners and the other is to verify that no damage has been done to America's industry. We will be involved in marathon negotiations on antidumping duties if we lose these first two contests."

FREI, the only company among the three petitioners, is only a TV parts manufacturer and is little known among China's TV manufacturers. Hence, doubt has been expressed about the extent to which FREI can represent America's entire TV industry. There are few companies that actually manufacture TVs in the US that also sell them under their own brand. Therefore, the Chinese companies claim, it cannot be said that China's TV makers are a threat to America's domestic companies.

Meanwhile, further dumping charges are being leveled at China in the world trade battle. On April 28, two American battery makers, Energizer and Eveready Battery, also petitioned the USITC to commence an investigation into intellectual property infringement in certain zero mercury added alkaline batteries by seven of China's battery makers.



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The happy family.

Twins' Birth Saves SARS Mother

By Xiao Ping / Ivy Zhang

Doctors at the obstetrics department said they had never seen a pregnant woman so determined to save her babies regardless of the risks for her.

Three months after their traumatic and premature arrival in the world, the twin baby boys born on Valentine's Day in Guangzhou to a mother suffering from SARS are doing fine. Their mother A Jing (pseudonym) who had the babies delivered two months ahead of time through a Cesarean birth is healthy as well.

A Jing, 30, insisted on a premature Cesarean birth hoping to save her two babies, but at considerable risk to herself. In the event, the operation saved all three of them. After the delivery,

womb due to unbalanced nutrition distribution.

On January 8, A Jing was admitted to the No. 2 hospital affiliated to Zhongshan University. She stayed in the hospital and did not dare to leave even during the Spring Festival on February 1.

She never expected she would be attacked by the SARS virus. On February 4, A Jing suddenly had a high fever and her temperature jumped to 40 degrees Celsius. The fever remained, despite the use of all kinds of antibiotics used specially for pregnant women.

Before long, it became clear that A Jing had contracted SARS. Meanwhile, her husband also had a fever, one of the main symptoms of SARS. So the couple were put into isolated wardrooms.

"Patients with pneumonia or high fever sometimes suffer a shortage of oxygen. When a pregnant woman is short of oxygen, the fetus is likely to be in the same situation, which will affect the development of its brain," said Zhang.

As the hospital was still struggling to understand the SARS disease, A Jing was treated with conventional methods applied to pregnant woman with common fever and pneumonia.

On February 13, by which time A Jing had had high fever and pneumonia for nine days, she became more and more agitated. She kept asking the doctors to conduct a Cesarean operation so as to save the twins. They were initially unwilling because of the risks involved in such an operation.

Also, A Jing's father, who used to be a doctor, was worried his daughter might not survive the premature delivery.

But A Jing was determined. She even refused to receive further treatment. As a result, she soon started to suffer symptoms of dehydration and had blisters on her lips. Doctors at the obstetrics department said they had never seen a pregnant woman so determined to save her babies regardless of the risks for her.

On the morning of February 14, experts from the obstetrics and respiratory departments gathered to review A Jing's case. They all agreed that the gestation could be terminated ahead of time. The reason was that her sustained high fever would be starving the fetuses of oxygen. Also, delivering the babies would remove some of the pressure on

A Jing's lungs which would help her recovery from SARS.

At 5 pm that day, A Jing showed signs of premature delivery that indicated the fetuses were already suffering from the shortage of oxygen. The doctors decided to conduct the Cesarean operation right away.

The problem was where to do it and what precautionary measures to take. Also, where should the newly born babies be put?

At last, it was decided that the operation would be done in a small closed operation room at the hospital and that an ambulance vehicle from Guangzhou Children's Hospital should be waiting outside the building.

Around 9 pm, the operation started.

It went smoothly. Fifty minutes later, it was over. Both the mother and the twin boys were safe and well. The elder one weighed 1.75 kg and the younger one 1.45 kg.

As A Jing was a SARS patient, she had no chance to hold her babies. She took only a brief look at them before they were brought to the ambulance vehicle. The twins were then placed in the isolated incubation unit in the Children's Hospital.

Following the birth of her babies, A Jing's situation improved miraculously. Three days later, her fever subsided and the shadows on her lungs gradually faded. Two weeks later, the shadows on her lungs had disappeared completely.

On March 17, A Jing was discharged from the hospital.

Recalling the nightmarish days, A Jing said, "I felt exhausted and had no strength to get out of bed. I had to do everything in bed. What made me most worried was that the two little things who used to kick me inside seldom kicked me during that time. I thought if someone was destined to die, it should be me. I would rather it was just me instead of all three of us. I know I might not have been able to save them with the early operation. But anyway, there was hope there."

A Jing said her only worry was that her babies might have suffered brain damage due to shortage of blood and oxygen.

But at present, A Jing and her babies seem to be doing fine.

A Jing's husband has also recovered and now goes to work as usual. After the nightmare, A Jing's family life appears to have been rescued.

Floods Wreak Havoc in Hunan

By Lisa Li

Wang Xuewen, the director of Xiangluwan Dikes Committee in Changsha, Hunan province, was removed from his position for leaving his post without permission last Sunday.

He is the first member of Hunan's flood control authorities to lose his job this year, and his removal illustrates the seriousness of the situation as the desperate struggle to control floods which came earlier than usual this year continues.

With heavy rainfall coming again this Tuesday evening in central China's Hunan province, there were fears the Xiangjiang River could flood for a second time.

The municipal government of Changsha held an emergency meeting to discuss effective measures in the struggle against the floods. They agreed that any dereliction of duty would be severely punished.

Early on Monday morning, the water level of the Xiangjiang River rose to 38.1 meters, 3.1 meters higher than the warning level. The high water level lasted for four hours and didn't subside until very early the next day. Now the flood peak has passed Changsha, the capital of Hunan province and moved towards Dongting Lake. So far, there have been no more major losses or fatalities, thanks to effective flood-prevention measures.

However, Zhou Bohua, acting governor of Hunan Province, pointed out at a flood control conference on Wednesday that full prepara-

tions should be made to confront more potential floods in June.

Thousands of soldiers have been dispatched to defend the dikes and dams of Xiangjiang River.

Hunan province was hardest hit by the floods in the last week. The continuous torrential rain from last week caused floods which spread through eight cities and 52 counties across the province, affecting 4.3 million people and an area of 214 million hectares, damaging 35,000 houses and causing 25 deaths. The direct economic losses so far are estimated at nearly a billion yuan.

According to a report released by the State Flood and Drought Relief Headquarters, seven provincial areas experienced heavy rains between May 12 and 18.

In Guangdong, the three cities of Meizhou, Heyuan and Shaoguan were hit by torrential rainfall, leaving at least 21 people dead with seven others missing. Many people have become homeless and the direct economic loss was estimated at more than 620 million yuan. Meizhou is the hardest hit, with 406,000 people affected.

In order to help the local flood victims rebuild their homes, Meizhou municipal government has sent out three relief teams to the areas hit hardest by the disaster.

In east China's Jiangxi province, the mainstreams of Ganjiang River were also above the danger level on May 19. The continuous heavy rain has caused collapses of many houses and landslides in some areas.



The local residents leave their homes by boat after the floods submerged Lao-daoe Town in Changsha, Hunan Province on May 18. Xinhua Photo

Cross Border Drug Ring Cracked

The United States and China have broken up a major heroin smuggling operation in their first coordinated effort to dismantle a drug ring, officials from the United States, China and Hong Kong said last Friday.

The unprecedented move resulted in the indictment of 25 people in Manhattan federal court charging them with smuggling more than 1,500 pounds (680 kilos) of Southeast Asian heroin into the United States since 2000.

By May 21, police had caught 28 suspects including the alleged ringleader Wang Jianzhang. A total of 40.2 kilograms of heroin was confiscated.

Wang is a former drug dealer in Manhattan's Chinatown who had been jailed on drug charges and deported, said US officials. He allegedly ran the so-called 1-2-5 Organization from China along with three partners, who were also indicted. Chinese law enforcement officials referred to the four as "untouchables" because they had long been unable to catch them.

After the four "untouchables" were arrested in China, American police fanned out and made 10 more arrests in New York, confiscating 4.2 kg of heroin in the process.

The joint Sino-US investigation started nearly two years ago. "The group is a sophisticated and well-organized operation. They have a big membership,

fixed drug sources and sales network," according to sources from China's Public Security Ministry.

The group's operations are alleged to have spanned the globe with wholesale distributors selling heroin to retail cells based in New York, North Carolina, Florida, Canada and elsewhere.

Anthony Placido, special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's New York office, said that the drug organization was one of the world's largest, operating "from the farms of Burma to the arms of addicts in the United States."

The indictment alleged the group's leaders got heroin from different suppliers in Burma. Once the heroin arrived in China, other members of the ring transported it in trucks to Fujian Province along the southeast coastline.

Other ring members, some in Hong Kong, shipped the heroin to the United States. The group's US wholesalers arranged for drug sale proceeds to be laundered before being sent to the organization's leaders.

If convicted, all the defendants face a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years on the narcotics trafficking charges. Some defendants also face an additional maximum 20-year prison term on money-laundering charges.

(Sources: Reuters, Xinhua News Agency and New York Daily News)



Photos by Chen Haiping

A Jing's high fever which had lasted for 10 days calmed and the shadow on her lungs gradually disappeared.

Professor Zhang Jianping, director of the obstetrics department at No. 2 Hospital affiliated to Zhongshan University was interviewed by Guangzhou-based Xin Kuai Bao last week.

A Jing's due delivery date was on April 14. However, after a routine examination, the doctor told her there was a complication. There was a danger one or both of the babies might die in the

All in the Game

By Zhao Pu

In February 2001, a new computer game took the Internet by storm in China. The hero had to battle cheats, thieves, violent stooges and a generally threatening environment before being able to claim the prize and marry the girl. Only this wasn't some far fetched, Dungeons and Dragons-style adventure. It was based on the life of a *waidiren* in Beijing, struggling to keep his head above the waves.

Within a few months of being released, "Survive in Beijing" had been played by more than 200,000 Internet users in Beijing and around China. The simple and interesting plot of a non-Beijinger's hard life in the game aroused the sympathy of a lot of people. The game's developer Guo Xianghao started receiving sack loads of fan mail, much of it asking him how he came up with this somewhat unlikely idea for a computer game. "I am the non-local in the game," says Guo simply. "I survived in Beijing."

The game

The player acts the role of a new immigrant to Beijing. You come to the capital from your countryside hometown with a single desperate mission to earn money to pay off a huge debt (5,500 yuan) to your evil lender. You have 2,000 yuan with which to start up your own business and earn enough money to pay the debt within 40 days.

The interest on the debt is an exorbitant 10%. Your debt snowballs threateningly all the time. And if you fail to pay the debt on the 40th day of your stay in Beijing, you will be repatriated back home to face the merciless lender.

Everyday you can visit a black market in the city to buy a commodity of some kind and try to sell it at a profit somewhere else, and of course the market is changing all the time. On your way fumbling around the hustling city you run into many kinds of troubles. Your diary of surviving in Beijing is written in tears and blood.

The cruel lender regularly sends his buddies to Beijing to beat you up if you are not constantly sending money back to him; you are in danger of being killed by them if your business is not successful.

As a stranger to the big city, you are constantly surrounded by discrimination from local people. You run

into thieves, cheats and rogues; and the relevant (or irrelevant) administrative organs of the government also trouble you from time to time, giving you fines and threatening to send you back home.

Of course if you do survive the "hell-like" life in Beijing and make a pile during your short stay, you can proudly return home to marry your beloved fiancée. The most capable players can even win more than 10 million and squeeze into the *Forbes* list of the richest Beijing residents.

"Every player has his own particular experience in this game," says Guo Xianghao.

Based on experience

The realistic story of survival in the game inspired a lot of players in Beijing, locals and non-locals, to write to Guo, expressing their appreciation for his creation and also their sympathetic feelings for the main character and the difficulty of surviving in big cities and unfamiliar places.

Guo wrote back to the fans of his game on the Internet, revealing how the game was based on his own life. In 1992, he left his hometown Zhangjiajie, a beautiful natural reserve in Hunan Province, and came to Beijing for further education, with just 200 yuan

to pay his way. Guo has now been living in Beijing for 11 years. From a graduate student to a software engineer, Guo witnessed the change of the city and experienced the hardships of the "survival" of an immigrant.

"I was a non-local in Beijing, and I've seen the lives of many other immigrants in this city. I always had an impulse to write a story about this kind of life, and the game was a creation based on this idea," says Guo. To describe how he created the game, Guo published an article called *My Survival in Beijing* on the Internet.

"I love literature and playing computer games, which bring me infinite fun and rich experiences," said Guo in the article. "But I often feel disappointed after playing some of the popular computer games. The stories are too far away from everyday life: remote European castles, visionary Chinese swordsmen legends...can't the games reflect the true life familiar to every one of us? I gradually came up with the idea of contriving a computer game by myself."

One evening in December 2000, when Guo was walking wearily out of the Bajiaocun subway station after working overtime, he saw two young migrant workers selling pirate

computer disks. "They looked pretty bored and they weren't selling much," Guo recalls.

Looking at them, many scenes came into his mind: the workers getting scornful looks in the subway; women from the countryside with their babies, selling pirate VCDs in Zhongguancun; the web page editors and programmers in IT companies incessantly hopping from one job to another;

Non-locals waiting at the railway station to leave Beijing after the outbreak of SARS.

Photo by Chen Shuyi



the graduate with a master's or even doctor's degree experiencing endless troubles trying to get a *hukou*.

At that moment, Guo decided to create a computer game to reflect the life he knew. "It will also be my literary work; only the themes will be expressed by a game, not words," he thought. The spread of the work would not rely on traditional media but the Internet. "It would be a complete innovation. Could it be successful? I was not sure, but I wanted to have a try," he says.

Guo began the designing, coding and testing in his chilly rented room after coming back from work every day and working till after midnight. A week later, the first version of the game *Survive in Beijing* came out.

Unexpected success

The popularity of the game was a pleasant surprise for Guo. Many people asked him why his small and simple game turned out to be such a great success, attracting more players than big complex games on the Internet. "I believe people love the game because it has a very different approach. In most contemporary games, players play the role of a hero, whereas in this game you are a poor hapless guy striving for a place in the dog-eat-dog society," he says. "Sensitive players find a kind of reality in this game; they feel the pathos, humor and ironies of life when playing it."

"Experience of surviving in Beijing is my reason to express myself,

programming is my language, and the Internet gives me a boundless space of communication with my 'readers,'" says Guo. Since the release of the game in early 2001, Guo has received hundreds of emails from players.

One of the letters was from a player in Canada, a Chinese man who had just migrated to Toronto. "I like your game *Survive in Beijing* a lot. I am a new immigrant to Toronto and life here is hard for me at the moment. Would you please create a special game of 'Survive in Canada' for us?"

Guo works as a researcher in a technical development company, but the success of his first game has given him a different idea for his future career. "I'll become an IGD (Independent Game Developer)," he says. "I hope to make a career out of game development and become an outstanding developer like my idol Sid Meier (a world famous game developer)."

As the first step to realize his ideal, Guo established his Guoly game development studio early last year. Guo is the designer and producer. The other member, Jessica, works as his assistant, responsible for the testing of his productions. "She was a fan of my game. She wrote to me and we became friends later," says Guo.

At present, Guo is designing a new game similar to *Survive in Beijing*. "This time it's about the life of a Beijing native," he reveals with a smile.

My Survival in Beijing

By Guo Xianghao /
Translated by Zhang Huan

I came to Beijing to further my studies in the autumn of 1992, with 200 yuan in my pocket. Facing the metropolis with its forest of skyscrapers and incessant streams of vehicles, I dreamed of studying more, creating more and expressing myself more, though I had no friends or relations to turn to. I was full of the honesty and ardor that a young man can have, just like Shen Congwen (a well-known Chinese writer) who first came to Beijing in the 1920s.

From college to employment, I have hustled about in the city for ten years. You probably have met me in Beijing: I am the indifferent passenger that you saw on a bus; I am the cautious man selling pirate VCDs in Zhongguancun; I am the cyclist that ran the red light under the Yansha overpass and was rebuked by a policeman; I am your unfamiliar neighbor who has never exchanged a word with you.

It took me 10 years to understand Beijing. This is a city that has a long history, and one with an unlimited future. Skyscrapers stand next to courtyard houses. Women from the countryside selling software in Kexueyuan nanlu brush past the best computer scientists in the country. Old men carry their birdcages and hum Beijing opera, while their family members come back from overseas study to start their own careers.

For those who have left their hometown for Beijing with a dream, like Shen Congwen, there is now a new name: wanderer to Beijing. Renting houses, bustling about and pursuing dreams in Beijing are the characteristics of these people.

I am one of them. After graduation, I began working in a company. Because of housing reform, I had to look for accommodation by myself. Moving is one of the basic skills of the wanderers. In the four years after graduation, I practiced this skill at least once a year.

My wife works in a typical government-owned enterprise. The manager there has two characteristics: knowing nothing about his profession, but experienced in fighting for power, as insidious as an eunuch. Working in such a place is not only tiring but also disgusting.

To get *hukou* (registered permanent residence), for three to four years, my wife and I were busy rushing about to get through all the red tape while working at the same time. After graduation from college, the hardship and stress of life seemed just like the description by Qian Zhongshu, a Chinese writer and scholar: "All the coverings and masks are gradually taken off and the primal malevolence emerges."

As time has passed, I am no longer the 22-year-old I was in 1992, full of pride and enthusiasm. I have finally realized that I have to face everything that will come, which I cannot change. I feel that I am becoming smaller and rougher.

But there is always something that cannot be changed by time. For me, creativity is not only happiness, but also the resistance against ordinary and trivial life and the effort to leave some mark in the time that is passing like flowing water.

In most popular computer games, the stories are too far away from everyday life: remote European castles, visionary Chinese swordsmen legends...can't the games reflect the true life familiar to every one of us?

— Guo Xianghao,
developer of *Survive in Beijing*, unwilling
to show his real face

Photo by Txtsuma



A Palace Museum statue of Guanyin, the Bodhisattva of Compassion, on show in Hangzhou in 2001.

Photo provided by Photocome

By Peng Kailei / Yu Shanshan
Beijing's Palace Museum issued a statement through the Hong Kong newspaper *Wenweipo* on May 14 denying the loss of any of its collection. The so-called loss of the relics was reported in the previous day's *Singtao Daily*, another Hong Kong newspaper.

Forbidden City relics allegedly sold in Hong Kong

According to the *Singtao Daily* report, Hong Kong police were notified by their mainland counterparts at the end of last year that lost Qing Dynasty Guanyin and Buddha statues from the Palace Museum had been taken to Hong Kong after being stolen from a touring exhibition in Shanxi.

Twenty of over 100 allegedly stolen pieces were said to have been sold on October 28 through Christie's Auctions in Hong Kong, some of which were believed to have already been taken out of the country.

Among these relics, the most precious is the Qianlong period (1736-1795)

Wuliangshou (Amitabha) Buddha statue, which was bought for HK \$2.27 million by a local antique dealer.

The report claimed that the 20 pieces sold for a total of HK \$3.9 million, and that the remainder were still in the possession of Christie's Auction House. It also said that some of the artifacts had not been delivered to the buyers, because Christie's had stopped further exchange at the request of the local police.

Palace Museum denies loss
In response, Zhu Chengru, vice director of the Palace Museum said in an interview with *Wenweipo* that the report was totally false. "Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, there has never been any loss in the museum," he said, "If even a relic of class two or three had been stolen, I would have lost my job, let alone a class one piece!"

More to the point, he said, there has been no such opportunity in the past twenty years, as the museum has not sent any touring exhibitions to Shanxi.

The Palace Museum

retains a clean record, which, according to Zhu, is due to the strict precautions it insists on.

For touring exhibitions, class one pieces are under strict restrictions. No more than 20 percent of "national treasure," or first class, relics are allowed to be exhibited outside the museum at any given time, and these pieces are not, generally, allowed to be exhibited abroad.

According to a statement issued by the museum, the stolen Guanyin and Buddha statues may have been amongst some that once belonged to the Palace

Museum, but were transferred to provincial museums "in order to increase their exhibits." Based on this information, some experts suspect that the Buddha statues were stolen directly from those provincial museums.

Police investigation

In early November 2002, according to the *Singtao Daily* report, Hong Kong police received notification from their mainland counterparts that some of the Buddha statues on show at Hong Kong's JW Marriot Hotel as part of the "Imperial Belief:

the Buddhist Treasure of Qianlong" exhibition, hosted by Christie's, belonged to Beijing's Palace Museum and were stolen last year.

An unnamed woman, said to hold a British passport and have addresses in Malaysia, Beijing and Hong Kong, provided the relics. The woman sent word through her lawyers to the Hong Kong authorities that the relics she entrusted to Christie's were all from her personal collection, bought in Britain more than 10 years ago, and that she had no idea about their origins prior to that.

In the course of their investigation, Hong Kong police found an address for a bank account in which Christie's deposited payment for the lots put up for auction by the woman. The address belonged to an employee of a gambling house in Macao, but the man denied any knowledge of the affair. Meanwhile, mainland police have arrested two people suspected of involvement in the stealing and transporting of the relics.



Vice director Zhu Chengru refutes the claim that Palace Museum treasures have been lost or stolen.

Photo by Peng Kailei



The tomb is sanitized before being re-filled. Photo provided by Photocome

Pits of Eastern Zhou Dynasty Refilled

By Yu Shanshan

Excavation of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty Kingdom Tomb in the center of Luoyang, Henan Province, concluded on May 18. Sections of pits containing chariots and horses have been refilled, while work on the biggest pit, "Tian Zi Jia Li" (King with six-horse chariot) continues.

Since last September, during the construction of a plaza in the city of Luoyang, 397 tombs and 18 pits with horses and chariots of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770-221 BC) have been discovered. The find outnumbers the total number of burial pits with funerary horses and chariots discovered at Luoyang in the past fifty years.

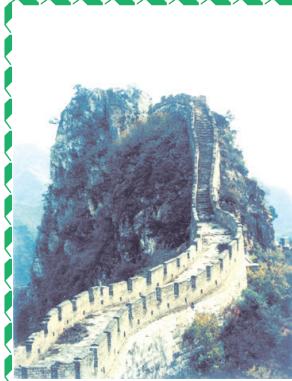
From the 208 tombs and 17 pits that were unearthed, archeologists found more than 1,300 pottery objects, bronzes, bone implements and pieces of stoneware, which are believed to have belonged to the royal family of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty.

The most elaborate is the 2,500-year-old "Tian Zi Jia Liu." It is 42.6 meters long and 7.4 meters wide, and contains 25 chariots, and the remains of 60 horses and several dogs that were buried alive as the funerary objects. The scale of the pit is second only to that of the Jiuliandun Tomb in Zaoyang, Hubei Province.

Ensuring the protection of the contents of the pits has proven to be a headache for archaeologists, as currently available techniques are considered inadequate. Finally, the State Cultural Relics Bureau decided to leave the relics where they were and build a museum above, sealing the site. Visitors will be able to view the relics through the glass floor.

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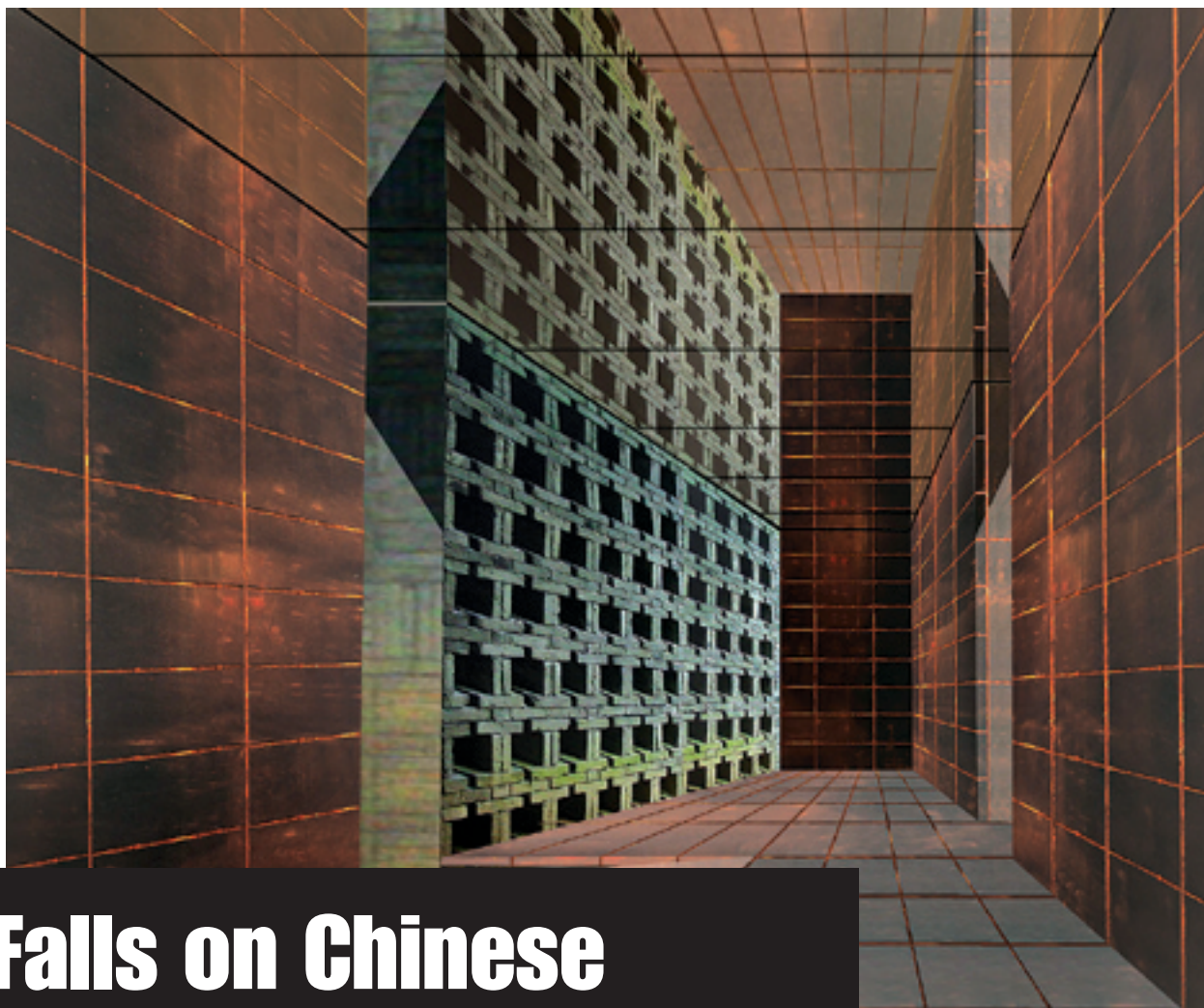
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**Reconstruction
by Wang Shu**

Wang has transformed the classical Italian portal of the Chinese Pavilion into an elegant gate in the style of a Chinese garden. He designed the walls of the corridor to be built of steel moulds and gray bricks, giving it the feel of a Chinese courtyard.



Shadow Falls on Chinese Pavilion at Venice Art Show

By Iris Miao

As economists struggle to calculate the financial impact of SARS, the virus has already exerted a conspicuously negative effect on the domestic art world. The postponement of exhibitions and spring auctions are bad enough, but now the debut of the Chinese Pavilion at the 50th International Art Exhibition of the Biennale di Venezia may be called off.

For the first time since 1895, when the Biennale Di Venezia was born, there will likely be no Chinese artists under the roof of a national pavilion at this year's event, which kicks off on June 14.

Fan Di'an, curator of the Chinese Pavilion and vice dean of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, confirmed the disappointing news with *Beijing Today* last Tuesday. Because most of the five planned exhibits are large installation works, if the artists are not allowed to fly over to be on the spot, the pavilion will simply go empty.

Fan said that as originally planned, the five artists, Wang Shu, Zhan Wang, Lü Shengzhong, Liu Jianhua and Yang Dudong, will depart on June 1 along with their assistants, as will

Fan's assistant Huang Du. Setting up the installations should take around 10 days, and Fan himself will leave Beijing for Venice on June 8th.

"Taking into consideration all factors, such as responsibility to international society and to our artists, and whether the Chinese Pavilion could live up to expectations, we have prepared for the worst. If we can't make the trip, we will send some introductory materials over so we have some form of participation," he said.

According to Huang Du, feelings of frustration are inevitable among everyone involved in the project. They have been preparing for the show for several months, including making the overall plan and choosing artists and some organizers went to Venice in February to inspect the venue. He said, "Who could have predicted there would be a sudden and severe epidemic?"

However, under-the-table sources say that negotiations are still underway between China's Ministry of Culture and Italian officials on permitting the Chinese representatives to take part in the Biennial. The Chinese side has reportedly proposed a compromise

plan in which the Chinese exhibition would still be held, but in a different venue.

The theme of the Chinese Pavilion, "Synthi-Scape", was worked out by Fan and Huang Du with assistance from Wang Yong, deputy director of the Fine Arts Department of the Chinese Art Research Institute. The primary goal of the show, said Fan, is to celebrate Chinese contemporary art's "new home" at the Biennial, and more profoundly, to represent the changes going on in contemporary Chinese art in the context of China's dramatic urbanization.

The plan for the China Pavilion calls for the formation of two separate yet interactive spaces. One would house the artists' takes on public space, installations meant to produce a sense of alienation as one might experience in a public area. The other space would hold artists' depictions of individual or private space.

The designer of the restructured hall, architect Wang Shu of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, has long been devoted to finding a place for traditional architectural concepts and language into modern urban

building. His interest in ancient Chinese residences, especially those of southern China, lead him to create an entrance to the China Pavilion that resembles a classical Chinese garden.

On the first floor, Beijing-based sculptor Zhan Wang approaches a similar goal from a different perspective. He uses stainless steel to reproduce the artificial hills in a classical Chinese garden, traditionally symbols of intellectuals' longing and respect for nature. The material change reflects the transformation of cultural symbols in today's China, in an attempt to mend the mental rupture between tradition and modernity.

The second floor of the structure shows the works of three artists, Yang Fudong of Shanghai, Lü Shengzhong of Beijing, and Liu Jianhua of Kunming, all of whom emphasize their personal dreams and aspirations.

Fan Di'an considers the theme of the Chinese Pavilion to be an extension of the theme of the whole Biennial, "Dreams and Conflicts". He said that in the context of rapid urbanization and globalization, dreams and conflicts are real, powerful forces in modern China.

The Biennale di Venezia's 50th International Art Exhibition presents an "exhibition of exhibitions" throughout the spaces of the district of the Arsenale, the historic Giardini della Biennale, the Museo Correr in San Marco, and various projects within the city of Venice to be included in the section Interludes, making it bigger than any previous Biennale Exhibitions. Official inauguration of the event will be on June 14, and it will open to the public from June 15 to November 2, 2003.

Chinese-French curator Hou Hanru will organize the "Zone of Emergency" exhibition in the Arsenale. He has invited over 40 artists worldwide, most hailing from the Asia-Pacific region, to participate. Over half the artists he invited are from the Chinese mainland, but whether they will be allowed to travel to Venice is as yet uncertain.

**Flutter Flutter, Jasmine Jasmine (video installation)
by Yang Fudong**

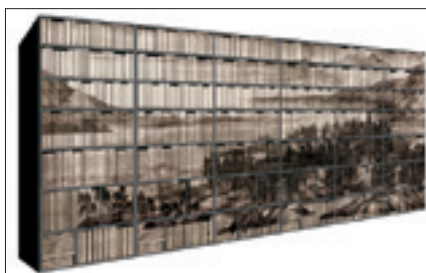
Simultaneously playing on three screens, Yang's work tells a story of a young couple's daily life, their love, family, career, and dreams. The video first went public at last year's Shanghai Biennale, and has attracted much attention and criticism. Yang blurs the boundaries of film, video, and documentary to present a cool, elegant and romantic look at the lives of urban youth.

**Urban Landscape by Zhan Wang**

Zhan's Urban Landscape includes two sections: stainless-steel mountains and stainless-steel tableware, placed in two adjacent exhibition halls. When the viewers step from the first hall into the second, they shift from one landscape to a near copy with subtle differences. Through shifting space and illusion, Zhan intends to trigger people's imagination of a spiritual journey.

**Landscape Study Room by Lü Shengzhong**

Lü interprets the art of ink and wash as a "space" of conceptual art instead of a pure matter of material and skill. His installation includes a huge bookshelf with books and albums arranged so that their spines form the lines of a traditional landscape painting. In this unique study, viewers can relax and check out the books on the shelves as they like, undergoing a witty and novel experience of appreciation.

**Daily, Fragile by Liu Jianhua**

Liu's installation includes a great number of white porcelain daily use utensils. At the center of the hall hangs a sculpture of a pillow, with sculptures of daily articles on the three other walls. The piece creates the private ambience of a bedroom and a person's dreams.



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Sisters and Brothers United against SARS



Na Ying, Jia Ding and Su Yue

Photo by Li Yan

By Dong Nan

Renowned pop singers Na Ying and Xie Xiaodong have delivered CDs of their new song *Sisterhood and Brotherhood*, about fighting against SARS, to people who work with the public. "We are all sisters and brothers. We shall overcome any tempests," the lyrics of the song proclaim.

The composers of the song, pop musicians Su Yue and Jia Ding joined in the campaign.

The group have visited the Beijing Traffic Administration Bureau, public transportation companies, shops, supermarkets and Beijing TV station.

Finally they visited Beijing Arts Radio for a live broadcast. When a listener asked through the hotline whether they were afraid of SARS, Na responded, "It is but a 'paper tiger.'"

Jackie Chan Promotes New Film at Cannes



Jackie Chan at Cannes

By Dong Nan

Martial arts movie star Jackie Chan is at the Cannes Film Festival to promote his upcoming film *Around the World in 80 Days*. In this new version of the Jules Verne classic, Passepartout (Chan), the French servant of Phileas Fogg, is cast as the lead role.

The unfinished work includes scenes shot on location in Berlin and Thailand.

Chan, who received a warm welcome at the press conference, said it was the third time he had been to the Cannes Film Festival.

Elva Xiao Releases New Album



Elva Xiao

By Dong Nan

Taiwan pop star Elva Xiao released her new album *Loving Love* on Saturday.

This is the sixth album from Xiao, who is known for her bittersweet love songs, and marks a

dramatic change in style. There are still a couple of sad ballads, but she also tries her hand at hip hop, rhythm and blues, dance and adds a touch of traditional music for good measure.

In the title track, she raps in Chinese, English and Spanish. The video of the song was shot in a mediaeval castle, and features modern afro-American dance.

"Elva can always strike the balance between popularity and individuality," and "Her music is just like a kaleidoscope and never let me down," commented excited fans Friday at an online press conference for the new album on www.hinet.com.

Classic Music Video

By Nebula Dong

Robert Schumann's *Dreaming* has been made into a music video by renowned Chinese cellist Liu Xinxin.

Dreaming is the seventh and most popular piece from Schumann's *Scenes of Childhood* suite.

Liu, who also plays the role of the heroine in the video is responsible for the original design of the video, and also cast the actors and selected the costumes.

The video will be screened on TV later this month.



Wu Wei at the Miss China Competition

Today China, Tomorrow the Universe

By Dong Nan

Miss China, Wu Wei, is taking part in the 52nd Miss Universe pageant, the winner of which will be announced in Panama on June 3.

Wu was crowned Miss China in a national competition in Shandong Province last month. The 23-year-old bank clerk beat some 2,000 competitors to win the laurel.

For the international campaign, the Chinese headquarters of Miss Universe offered Wu a two week special training program and have prepared costumes to the value of 100,000 yuan, including traditional man-

darin gowns and a Qing Dynasty style princess's court dress.

Wu, who has a bachelors degree and speaks English, will answer questions in Chinese at the Panama competition, "I am confident I will reveal the beauty of the Chinese language to the whole world," she said at the press conference.

Jiang Xintian, winner of Media Focus prize at last month's Chinese competition, will also participate in the world campaign as a special guest. The 17-year old a deaf-mute high school student is the fist handicapped competitor in the Miss Universe's 52-year history.

WORLDWIDE



Philip Seymour Hoffman

Actor Hoffman Toils for Truth in Broadway Play

Philip Seymour Hoffman, as anonymous off stage as he is riveting on it, is on top of the actors' game these days, drawing standing ovations on Broadway in Eugene O'Neill's classic *Long Day's Journey into Night*.

Yet the chubby everyman who has gotten into the skin of a dazzling variety of roles over the last decade says searching for truth in the characters he plays can be a difficult journey.

"Acting is not something you can do by the numbers," Hoffman, 35, said in a recent interview, "It changes from part to part. Day to day. Hour to hour." (Reuters)



Austrian director Michael Haneke

Boos and Cheers for Cannes Hero Michael Haneke

Austrian director Michael Haneke was the toast of Cannes two years ago. On Tuesday, boos mixed with the cheers for his apocalyptic movie *The Time of the Wolf*.

Haneke's *The Piano Teacher* scooped three of the top prizes at the film festival in 2001 but this time views were divided.

The Time of the Wolf, Haneke's latest film - his seventh at Cannes - was given a special screening attended by the world's press. (Reuters) **Rocker Charged with Cocaine, Heroin Possession**

Rocker Scott Weiland, the lead singer of Stone Temple Pilots, has been charged with cocaine and heroin possession in Los Angeles, two years af-

ter completing a jail term for violating his probation on the same charges, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

Weiland, 35, and Jennifer Lynn Sires, 29, were stopped by Burbank police shortly before midnight on Saturday after officers saw them driving without lights in a shuttered retail district. (Reuters)



Scott Weiland, front man of Stone Temple Pilots

Sotheby's Settles Lawsuit Against Michael Jackson

Sotheby's said on Tuesday it had settled a lawsuit accusing pop superstar Michael Jackson of failing to pay almost \$1.4 million for two 19th century paintings he bought from the auction house last year but no longer wanted.

Diana Phillips, senior vice president for the New York auction house, told Reuters that the case had been resolved amicably but the terms were not being disclosed. (Reuters) **Kidman Keeps Promise to Go Barefoot at Cannes**

Nicole Kidman said on Tuesday she walked barefoot on the famed red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival because she was keeping a promise to director Lars von Trier.

Kidman wore a stunning red Gucci dress to Monday's gala showing of *Dogville*, a favorite to win the quixotic Dane the festival's Palme d'Or. (Reuters)



Nicole Kidman and Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgard at Cannes

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By Hou Mingxin

On May 11, Chinese NBA star Yao Ming took center stage in a three-hour telethon shot in Shanghai that brought in more than \$400,000 of donations towards research into a cure for SARS. The deadly disease has infected thousands and killed over 250 people in China.

Yao and his representatives thought up, produced and drew support for the program, which was a hit among audiences and attracted the participation of Chinese and foreign sports stars along with other famous personalities.

A former national star with the Shanghai Sharks of China's basketball league, Yao shot to international superstardom last year when he joined the Houston

Rockets as the NBA's No. 1 draft pick and then had a sensational rookie season.

The 22-year-old center said he was inspired to host the telethon after visiting hospitals and attending fund-raisers. Yao also taped a public service announce-

ment for Shanghai television in which he tells viewers, "We need your strength to conquer SARS."

Last month, he appeared at a ceremony for military medical personnel sent from Shanghai to Beijing to control the SARS epidemic in the capital.

Yao Ming Leads Stars Against SARS

Shanghai TV's Great Sports Channel televised the three-hour telethon and made it available via satellite to every television network around the country. It was estimated that about 60 million viewers in China watched the program.

Yao's action got support from all over the world, including former US President Bill Clinton, superstars in and out of sport, as well as millions of regular people.

The newspaper *Titan Sports* reported last Monday that Yao's efforts reaped a total of 3.7 million yuan in donations.

A way to repay others

The young star said participating in the event was one way of giving back to others.

"He's hosting and producing the show," said Bill Sanders, Yao's marketing representative. "When he got home, he was blown away by the impact SARS has had. He got off the plane, and there was health screening at the airport, people in masks, people in chemical suits sterilizing everything. He said he wanted to do something about this, and this plan was devised."

During the program, Yao explained that he feels everyone can contribute to the fight against the disease. "For myself, as a celebrity, I feel an obligation to repay society and lead the way for other Chinese basketball players to do more in the way of community service," Yao said, "This is a great opportunity to do that and help a great cause."

Gifts from stars

The three-hour show broadcasted videotaped messages from NBA stars and personalities, including Shaquille O'Neal, Magic

Johnson, Tracy McGrady, Allen Iverson, Tim Duncan, Steve Nash, Dirk Nowitzki, Dikembe Mutombo, Phil Jackson, Bill Walton, Magic Johnson, Kevin McHale and NBA commissioner David Stern.

Stern, the NBA commissioner, highly praised Yao's actions and called him a model for other sports stars.

"I love you, thanks and peace," said O'Neal, in Chinese, in his videotaped message.

The Rockets put together a five-minute program called "You Are a Part of Us, We Are a Part of You" to help their teammate, while Rockets owner Leslie Alexander made a \$22,000 donation.

Rocket guard Steve Francis, coach Rudy Tomjanovich and team president George Postolos taped personal messages. Francis also sent a donation of \$10,000.

"Throughout this season, and in donating this money, Steve Francis has shown leadership of the highest level," Yao said. "I want to publicly acknowledge his support and thank him for his leadership."

The NBA provided a variety of autographed memorabilia items such as basketballs and team uniforms signed by Michael Jordan, as well as a pair of air tickets to fly two lucky winners to Houston to see watch the Rocket's opening game next season.

Allen Iverson, star guard with the Philadelphia 76ers, also made a contribution of \$10,000.

Before the telethon, Yao's representatives sought the involvement of a wide range of celebrities from sports and other fields, and even held talks with representatives of former US presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush.

In a letter to Yao Ming, Clinton expressed admiration of Yao's push for donations for a cure for SARS and urged people to be generous with their support.

Sports stars from around the world answered Yao's call, with top golfer Tiger Woods donating a set of his golf clubs and German tennis player Boris Becker turning over some rackets, which will be auctioned on Yao's official web site, with all proceeds going towards anti-SARS efforts.

Major figures from the soccer world, including Ronaldo, Roberto Bagio and Andriy Shevchenko expressed their support through videotaped messages and other forms.

Ronaldo sent a picture of himself standing before a sign printed with the Chinese words, "We stand together with China in fighting SARS."

Manchester United sent a team uniform with the signatures of the great club's superstars.

Domestic sports star Li Ning, Xu Haifeng and Yang Yang and film stars and singers including Jacky Chen, CoCo Lee, Zhou Xingchi and Zhang Ziyi also contributed to the event.

Among the corporations that made donations were Nike, Pepsi (Gatorade), Apple Computers and the consumer goods company Avery-Denison.

Three hours, 3.7 million

During the telethon, Yao received help from friends old and new. Those making appearances included Chinese national soccer player Qi Hong, women's national soccer team captain Sun Wen, and German Jorg Albertz, a player for a Chinese soccer team, who donated 35,000 yuan.

In the final hour of the program, Yao sat for an interview, fielding viewers' questions sent by email or cell phone short message on his budding career, life in America and what it felt like to come home to Shanghai.

"There were times in America when it was very stressful and I was rather terrified. But I had my family to give me support and the other players really helped me a lot," Yao said.

His appearance seemed to be what viewers were waiting for, as donations more than doubled in the final minutes of the program after he gave the interview.

"All the money will go to the China Red Cross, in the names of the medical staff who have died on the job, to work for the protection of medical staff and A cure for SARS," said Yao.



Hat Trick for Schumacher

By Hou Mingxin

World champion Michael Schumacher kept his cool on Sunday and racked up his third race victory in a row for Ferrari at the Austrian Grand Prix, the site of a major lapse in decorum by the team last season.

The win was the 67th of Schumacher's record-breaking career. He took the flag before second-place Kimi Raikkonen of the McLaren team, cutting the young Finn's championship lead to two points.

Schumacher was jeered off the podium last season after being handed victory by teammate Rubens Barrichello on the final corner of the race. This time, there were no such acts of generosity, as the German drove to a convincing win.

"I feel like a winner right now," exclaimed Schumacher as he sprayed champagne on the winners' podium.

"I am happy to be on the podium and to score points, especially as I have been feeling under the weather all weekend with a cold, which meant I was sweating a lot in the car," said the champion.

It was the third win of the season for Ferrari and the fifth time Schumacher has taken the checkered flag at the Austrian Grand Prix.

Schumacher's Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello joined him on the podium with a third place finish. Barrichello admitted later to also sweating heavily in his car, as the Brazilian driver struggled under flu for most of the weekend. The team's strong performance gave Ferrari a one-point lead over rival McLaren.

On lap 22, things got tricky for Schumacher, as Ferrari mechanics had to douse his car with fire extinguishers when flames broke out as a jammed fuel rig was wrestled free during his first pit stop.

"It was a great race, except for my first pit stop, which cost me time. Without that, maybe I could have finished higher. I guess the mechanics felt I was a little bit too cool and wanted to warm me up," the German joked after the race. Schumacher crossed the finish line 3.3 seconds ahead of Raikkonen.

Ferrari announced they would investigate what turned out to be the main talking point of the race.

Kimi Raikkonen thought his car ran well during the match, but was disappointed with the final result. "I did not have a very good start. I lost position to [BMW Williams driver Juan Montoya], and then I just tried to keep Rubens behind me. After the first few laps it was a little bit more stable and more settled to push again.

"But at least I am still the championship leader, though the margin is getting small. I need to keep fighting and do my best," he said at a press conference after the race.

When rain started falling, several drivers took the pits, while Montoya stayed on to hunt down Schumacher.

Eventually the Spaniard overtook the Ferrari cars, both of which had engine problems, and grabbed the lead. However, Montoya's day quickly came to an end when the engine on his BMW blew up only laps after he got in front. Schumacher, running in third, was able to pass Raikkonen to reclaim the lead.

Jacques Villeneuve and Jenson Button were having a strong race for the British American Racing team, but when Villeneuve came in for his second pit stop, his car stalled. When he could rejoin the field, he was only able to come up with a 12th place finish. Button managed to hang on to finish fourth, securing vital points for the squad.

Sunday's race was billed as Austria's farewell, as the competition will be replaced next year by events in China and Bahrain.



By James Liu

The food makes a dinner, but an added performance can make dinner an event. That principle was well known to the royal families and officials of China's imperial past, who often ate while enjoying operas and dance and song performances. Even commoners flocked to restaurants that offered musical shows to accompany dining. Today, that tradition has been carried through to a number of restaurants around the capital representing a wide spectrum of cuisines. Some lean more towards the fine dining end, some towards the fine performance end, but all four of the restaurants below offer dinner theater that can make a meal feel like a celebration.

Filling Eyes and Stomachs

Dancing performance at Beijing Night Show

Photos by Wang Yong

Gala Evening at Beijing Night Show

Beijing Night Show is the city's only venue for dinner theatre with traditional Chinese performances. Though the quality of the shows generally surpasses that of the food, it has become a magnet for foreign tourists, in no small part because it is owned by the Beijing Tourism Group.



The kitchen specializes in imperial dishes, offered in three levels of set meals: regular, ethnic or special. Each set menu includes cold starters, main courses, desserts and fruits. Regular sets go for 80 yuan, with special versions priced at 180.

The restaurant can serve 500 people in its main hall and several private rooms. After dinner, three performances are held, lead by selections of Peking opera from 7:20 to 8:15. Performers dress and put on their make-up on stage to give diners a rare peek behind the scenes. Next on the schedule is the 40-minute Grand China dance performance, followed by a 45-minute demonstration of Chinese kung fu.

The stage is supported by high-tech lights and Dolby surround sound for a mesmerizing experience. The shows are not free, however, with the opera costing 240 yuan per guest, the dance show 160 yuan and the kung fu performance 80 yuan.

Add: A1 Dayabao Hutong, Dongcheng **Open:** 7-10 pm **Tel:** 6527 2814, 800 810 1282 **Average cost:** 160 yuan per person and up

Culinary Journey Through India at Tandoor Indian Restaurant

Since opening last June, this restaurant has cemented a position as one of the few places to get authentic Indian food in the capital. Through it is not a particularly large restaurant, the clever design and décor make it feel comfortable and exotic.

The theme of the interior is the travels of two Chinese monks of the fourth and sixth centuries to India to bring back Buddhist

sutras. Chairs and tables are inspired by the Buddhist symbol of the wheel, while phrases of Chinese characters hang from the ceiling and the mirrored walls add space to the room.



The restaurant takes its name from the *tandoor*, a traditional Indian clay oven used to cook food at very high temperatures. Behind the large window to part of the kitchen sit two tandoors, from which the cook staff, led by executive chef Dharmandar Sharma, grill up authentic northern Indian cuisine.

The menu offers more than 50 items, ranging widely in spice, with an emphasis on curry-based dishes. Among the starters are a plate of four *samosas*, deep-fried stuffed dumplings, sold for 33 yuan. The restaurant's signature dish is *murgh malai kebab* (80 yuan), chicken marinated with cheese, spices and peppers before being barbecued in the tandoor. Another spicy choice is chicken *tikka masala* (curry chicken in spices and cream, 70 yuan).



Among the starch options are a large bowl of *kashmiri pulao* (Indian fragrant rice, 50 yuan) and *Peshawari naan* (Indian bread stuffed with nuts and raisins, 15 yuan). The fragrant Masala tea, *lassis* (Indian yogurt shakes), and Indian Kingfisher brand beer should not be overlooked.

The Tandoor also runs an offer almost too good to be true – a 68-yuan set lunch that includes a range of delicious entrees, soup, salad, desert and a beverage. Dining at night can be considerably more expensive, but is more lively with the performances of a graceful Indian dancer who takes the stage between 6:30 and 10:30 pm.

Add: First floor, Great Dragon (Zhaolong) Hotel, 2 Gongti Beilu **Open:** 11:30 am – 2 pm, 5:30-10:30 pm **Tel:** 6597 2299 ext. 2112, 6597 2211 **Average cost:** 150 to 200 yuan per person

Dancing on Tables at Afunti

Now the most successful ethnic restaurant in Beijing, Afunti only had six tables when it was opened by a couple, Fan Jun and Sadat Hamait, in 1993. While it still has a somewhat hidden location in the small Houguaihang hutong in Chaonei Dajie, the restaurant has expanded to the point that it feels like a Munich beer hall. Despite the growth, the restaurant still serves up Uygur food and culture to never-ending masses of expats, tourists, diplomats and locals.



The restaurant's evening entertainment begins at 8 pm with performances by a nine-piece band and belly dancing and ends with guests shaking their tailfeathers on the tables. "This is called *meshrep* in Uygur tradition, meaning people regardless of all positions, ages and races having fun together," Ocean Hai, deputy general manager of the restaurant, explained to *Beijing Today*. From Tuesday and Saturday, music is provided by a modern band that plays flamenco with Uygur characteristics.



Lemon grilled beef

The eatery takes its name from a hero of Uygur legend. Just as authentic is the food, which is among the best representatives of Xinjiang cuisine in the capital, although it is relatively pricey. Newcomers to Uygur food can start with *latiaozi* (fried noodles with pepper in tomato sauce, 20 yuan), like a spicy version of spaghetti. Other popular dishes include lemon grilled beef

(*ningmeng kaoniurou*, 42 yuan) and Afunti Band (fried chicken and beef served in tinfoil, 38 yuan), served sizzling hot.

To draw customers in these spare days, Afunti is offering every guest a free bowl of chicken soup made with saffron, ginseng, and longan, believed to be able to strengthen the immune system. Diners are also given a pear after dinner, and more importantly 50 percent discounts on lunch and 20 percent reductions on dinner tabs.

Add: A2 Houguaihang Hutong, Chaonei Dajie **Open:** 11 am – midnight **Tel:** 6527 2288, 6525 1071 **Average cost:** 80 to 100 yuan per person

Night Enjoyment at Liyuan Theatre

The Liyuan Theatre, located within the Qianmen Jianguo Hotel, is partly run by the Peking Opera Theatre and offers nightly Peking opera and Shaolin kung fu performances to guests.

The food served is quite simple. Guests can choose dishes from the hotel's Songhe Restaurant or have a lighter meal of snack food sold at the theater. A wide range of Chinese teas is also available.

Artists from the Peking Opera Theatre give performances that show the best of the form. Simultaneous translation into English, Japanese and French is offered for all operas, and diners are even allowed backstage to watch performers get into costume and put on their makeup.

The Shaolin kung fu show is done by a team of monks from Songshan Temple in Henan Province. They display mind-bending skills with Chinese boxing, the spear, saber and sword.

However, regular performances have been put on hold since the hotel was designated as a host for medical staff at hospitals on the front line of the fight against SARS.

Add: 175 Yongan Lu, Xuanwu **Open:** 7:30-9:30 pm **Tel:** 8315 7297 **Average cost:** 150 yuan per person and up



Let Them Eat Cake

By James Liu

In a short span of time, the pink logo of Kiss n' Bake has turned up all over the city, from shopping malls to subway stations. The company, established by investors from Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore in November 2001, opened its first local store in the China World Trade Center the next February.

Now there are 22 Kiss n' Bake outlets in Beijing, and its cakes, pastries, drinks and gifts have made it one of the most popular bakeries in the city.

All products are made from premium ingredients, such as Anchor brand cheese and butter from New Zealand, Belgian chocolate, and flour imported from the US. All baking is overseen by Taiwanese master Robin Chang, who has more than 30 years of experience cooking up confections in five-star hotels.

Kiss'n Bake's product line is mainly made up of pastries, desserts and birthday cakes. The 20-or-so kinds of pastries go for 2 to 3.5 yuan each, with the fancier desserts, in a range of nearly 30 kinds, are priced at 3.9 to 19.9 yuan. Cakes come in over 50 varieties, including a truly delicious cheesecake, that run from 59 to 128 yuan, depending on ingredients.

All stores add a winning finishing touch to all goods with careful and attractive presentation and packaging. "We want to make our packages like pieces of art that customers will keep even after they've eaten their treats," said Amy Gu, company assistant general manager.

Add: BB96, underground Oriental Plaza, 1 East Chang'an Avenue **Open:** 8 am – 9 pm **Tel:** 8859 1699



Peach cake



Fruit Mousse cake



Afternoon at Henry J Beans' Terrace

By James Liu

As SARS numbers drop, life is returning to city streets and diners are heading back to their favorite restaurants. Many, however, still prefer to sit outside, a privilege offered by few local eateries. One of the more popular outdoor places these days is Henry J Beans, which is operating an outdoor garden with afternoon tea and nighttime beer and pub grub.

The kitchen serves up juicy, thick, first-rate hamburgers, with a wide range of coffee, wine, cocktails and beer to wash it down. The truly thirsty can try the 10-beer challenge, held daily. Fare in the afternoon tea, served from 2 to 5 pm, includes bottomless coffee or Chinese tea, along with a pastry or desert for 30 yuan a head. Every day there are more than 10 sweets to choose from, including, black forest cake, marble cheesecake, fruit tarts and mini tiramisu.

Add: First floor, West wing of China World Trade Center, Chaoyang **Open:** 11 am – 12 pm **Tel:** 6505 2266 ext. 6569 **Average cost:** 30 yuan per person and up

Cooking Chinese at Home Home-style Beef

By James Liu

Ingredients:

300 grams beef tenderloin; 50 grams snow peas; 50 grams onions, sliced; 50 grams celery, sliced; 25 grams black fungus, soaked in water for 15 minutes; 10 grams ginger, sliced; 5 grams mashed garlic; 150 grams (11 tbsp) cooking oil (only 1/3 to be consumed); 3 grams (1/2 tsp) salt; 50 grams (3 tbsp) water; 1 egg white; 10 grams (1 1/2 tbsp) dry cornstarch; 10 grams (2 tsp) cooking wine

Directions:

Cut the beef into thin slices 5 cm (2 inches) long and 3 cm (1.2 inches) wide. Put in a bowl. Add 1 g (1/6 tsp) of salt and stir until mixture is sticky. Add the egg white and dry cornstarch, and mix well.

Heat the oil in a wok to 70-100°C (160-210°F). Add beef slices and cook until done, stirring almost constantly. Take out beef and drain the oil from the wok.

Put 50 g (3 1/2 tbsp) of oil back into the wok. Add the ginger and scallions, and stir-fry until fragrant. Put in the cooking wine, snow peas, onion slices, celery slices, and black fungus and stir thoroughly. Add the water and salt, and bring to boil. Then add the beef, stir a few times and add the remaining cornstarch and water mixture in the bowl. Plate and serve.

WHO Scientists Say SARS Tactics are Working

Scientists brought together by the World Health Organization to review the data on SARS said yesterday that existing public health measures had been effective in containing the disease in many countries and should work eventually in China and Taiwan (China), where SARS is now concentrated.

Crucial measures that have broken the chain of person-to-person transmission of the SARS virus are the detection and treat-

ment of suspected cases as soon as they are identified and then quarantining their contacts. The measures also include providing timely public information and alerts to travelers.

Although the virus that causes SARS has occasionally been found on animals and on a cockroach, there is no evidence that animals or insects are spreading it. Nor is there any sign that infected individuals are spreading the virus before they become ill.

Findings from a study to be

issued this week reinforced the importance of people's seeking early medical attention. Detecting and isolating patients early in the course of their infection and quarantining their contacts has had a huge effect on slowing the spread of the outbreak.

However, it is recommended public health measures need to be kept at least another year wherever transmission seems to have stopped to be sure that the virus is not hiding, ready to strike again.

Information at the meeting affirmed that SARS is spread principally by droplets dispersed in coughs and sneezes among people with close and sustained contact with an infected individual.

New information was helping scientists learn more about a small number of individuals, called super-spreaders, who have transmitted the virus to scores of other people, the participants said.

It is important to distinguish between a super-spreader and a super-spreading setting, and that

is a very complex epidemiological and environmental problem. Among the determinants are the amount of virus an individual can transmit and the settings in hospitals and elsewhere that allow close contact with many other individuals.

Some evidence suggested that contaminated feces and urine could contribute to the spread of SARS if they became dispersed in droplets in the air and the droplets could be inhaled or swallowed. But that route is not a major means of

spreading the disease.

"SARS is too big for any country to handle single-handedly," one participant said. "It calls for regional and global collaboration, and the collaboration has been unprecedented in terms of identifying the virus and carrying out other research." The WHO has been widely praised for organizing teams of laboratory scientists, epidemiologists and health officials around the world immediately after it declared SARS a global health risk on March 12. (New York Times)



Summer Tips

By Huang Lisha

Summer is here, but things are a little different this year, thanks to SARS. How to spend this unusual summer? There are several important points to which everyone should pay attention.

To air-condition or not?

Avoid using central air-conditioning systems, as they have the potential to spread viruses and cause cross-infection. Individual air-conditioners are safe, as they draw air directly from outside.

Opening windows to ventilate the room is still very necessary. Morning is the best time for air refreshing, so keep windows open from six to ten o'clock.

Drink more water

During summer, there is a lot more dust floating in the air, which increases the filtering workload for your nose. One way of showing your nose that you care is to drink lots of water, which helps your body keep everything moist and helps boost disease-resistance.

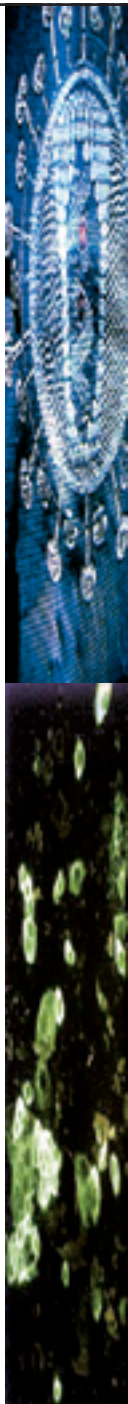
Fruit or vegetable juice, light tea, milk, or soya-bean milk are also good alternatives.

Are face masks still necessary?

Though the situation in the city is getting better, we still cannot afford to be careless. Always carry several clean face masks with you, for indoor use. Wearing a mask for long periods, however, should be avoided.

Exercise regularly

Exercising is one of the most effective ways to build up your health. Jogging, walking, or just deep breathing outdoors are all very beneficial.



Eye Tips

By Helen Hong

With the spectre of SARS still hanging over the city, many people are staying either at the office or at home, working on computers, surfing the Internet, watching TV or DVDs, or reading. Without proper rest and exercise, such activities can lead to tired and painful eyes. Following are some tips to help relax your eyes.

Close your eyes

Some activities do not require looking, such as making phone calls or just thinking. Whenever you have the opportunity, give your eyes a rest, even if its only for a few seconds.

Blink

Stare at something too long will cause your eyes to become dry. Blink deliberately 300 times every day to clean and moisten your eyes.

Exercise

Rub your hands together until your palms feel hot. Cover your eyes with your palms, take a deep breath, and think of something peaceful. Doing this regularly every day can help release eye strain.



Wash your face

Frequently washing your face with cool water is beneficial to protecting your eyesight.

Look at a plant.

Looking at a green plant is good for your eyes. After two hours of working, look out the window as far as you can, especially at green plants. Forcing your eyes to change focus is good exercise and helps prevent near-sightedness.

Look at green tea steam

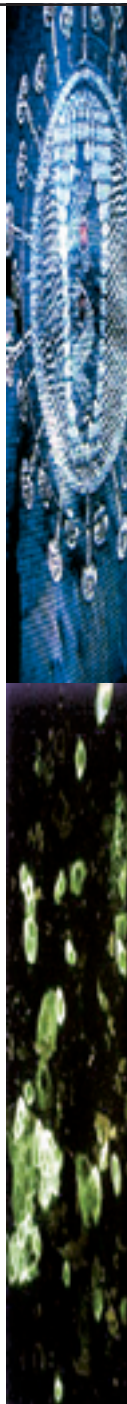
Letting the steam from a cup of hot green tea drift into your eyes, or covering your eyes with a towel soaked in green tea for about 10 minutes, is very soothing.

Do yoga

Yoga is good for your whole body, including your eyes.

Go outside

The best way to protect your eyes is outdoor activities such as exercising and playing ball games. Fresh air and green hills are the very best medicine for your eyes, and for your whole body.



Photos by photocome

Computer Tips

By Huang Lisha

The computer has fundamentally changed the way many people work, but few people have actually adjusted their health and hygiene habits as required by computer use. Here are a few points to live by if you work, or play, at a computer for long periods of time.

When sharing a computer, make sure to clean the keyboard often and wash your hands as soon as you finish working.

Staring at a screen for hours on end is bad for your eyes. As a countermeasure, eat lots of foods rich in vitamin A, such as carrots, cabbage, bean sprouts, tofu, dates, tangerines, milk, eggs, liver and lean meat.

Your chest and the center of the screen should be around the same level, and the ideal distance from eyes to screen is 40-50 centimeters. Adjustable chairs are highly recommended for heavy computer users. A good way to protect your eyes while operating a computer is to blink often and periodically close your eyes for a short interval to give them a rest.

Work spaces should be well lit, and should be kept clean and well ventilated.

After one hour of continuous work, you should rest at least 10 minutes. Stand up, walk around, and move your head. This will reduce the likelihood of getting a stiff neck or worse.

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Photos by Li Shuzhuan

Take a Deep Breath

(continued from last week)



Honglingjin Park

By Guo Yuandan and Salinda

Chaoyang District Honglingjin Park (红领巾公园)

Honglingjin Park lies to the north of Chaoyang Beilu, straddling the East Fourth Ring Road. It features two lakes, the East and West lakes, and large expanses of lawn and treed areas.

Inside the south gate of the park, is a small plantation of ginkgo trees. There are also flower gardens, pine trees, lilacs, Chinese flowering crabapple and myrtles.

Where: Houbalizhang (后八里庄)
Open: 6 am - 9 pm Admission: 1 yuan

Yuan Dynasty City Wall Park (元大都城垣遗址公园)

Half of this park is in Chaoyang, and half is in Haidian. The remnants of the Yuan city wall are five meters high, and about five kilometers long.

Where: 24 Anwaixiaoguan Jie (安外小关街) Open: 24 hours Admission: free

Ritan Park (日坛公园)

Built in 1530, this is where the Ming and Qing emperors made offerings to the Sun God. There is a square altar in the southeast corner of the park that was used for this purpose. Lying in the heart of the embassy district, this park is a popular spot for diplomats.

Where: Ritan Lu, Jianwaidajie
Open: 6 am - 8:30 pm Admission: 1 yuan

Tuanjiehu Park (团结湖公园)

A small but pleasant community park, there are rowing boats available for hire on the lake.

Where: 16 Tuanjiehu Nanli Open: 6 am - 9 pm Admission: 1 yuan

Haidian District Ruins of Yuanmingyuan (圆明园遗址公园)

The jewel in the crown of Chinese imperial gardens, Yuanmingyuan was known as the "garden of gardens" before it was razed by British and French troops in 1860.

Although the exquisite architecture for which it was renown is long gone, Yuanmingyuan is still a picturesque and peaceful getaway. The entire park takes up an area of 210 hectares, of which almost half is covered by water. Fuhai, or the Sea of Happiness, is the largest lake.

Where: northwest of Qinghua University Open: 7 am - 7 pm Admission: 10 yuan

Jiufeng Forest Park (九峰森林公园)

Jiufeng mountain is located 30



Ruins of Yuanmingyuan Photo by Cui Hao

kilometers west of Beijing. The precipitous mountain is covered with over 1,000 kinds of plants, including some 300 ancient trees. The main scenic spots include Monk Tower, Guanyin Hole (观音洞) and the Yang family garden.

Where: North of Beianhe village, Haidian Open: 6 am - 6 pm Admission: 8 yuan

Baiwangshan Forest Park (百望山森林公园)

This is the closest forest park to Beijing and a popular place to see the autumn leaves. In summer, it is a pleasant, shady spot with many flowers and a mountain stream.

Where: Three kilometers north of Summer Palace Open: 6 am - 7 pm Admission: 5 yuan



Badachu Park

Cishou Temple (慈寿寺)

Cishou Temple stands beside the water channel from Miyun reservoir. It was built in 1576, during the Ming Dynasty, by decree of Empress Dowager Li.

Where: Balizhuang, Haidian
Open: 7 am - 7 pm Admission: 1 yuan

Huichengmen Park (会城门公园)

Where: Beifengwo Lu, Haidian
Open: 24 hours Admission: free

Shijingshan District Badachu (八大处)

Badachu park is centered on a Buddhist temple and contains abundant historic relics. There are thousands of apricot trees and during the month of May the hills are covered with wild flowers. There are also three water amusement parts, and a cable car ride offering views of Beijing and the surrounding mountains.

Where: Yuquan Lu, Shijingshan District Open: 6 am - 6 pm Admission: 10 yuan

Gucheng Park (古城)

This small park does not have a great deal to offer in terms of scenic attractions or amusements, but



Ruins of Yuanmingyuan Photo by Cui Hao

it is a pleasant place for a stroll.

Where: Gucheng, Shijingshan Open:

6 am - 10 pm Admission: 0.5 yuan

Xiwang Park (希望公园)

Another small park, featuring European style buildings, an arched bridge and pavilions. Row boats and fishing available.

Where: Xihuancun, Shijingshan
Open: 6 am - 6 pm Admission: 2 yuan

Sculpture Park (雕塑公园)

There are over 30 statues in and around the lake.

Where: Gucheng, Shijingshan Open: 6 am - 10 pm Admission: 0.5 yuan

Shijingshan Amusement Park (石景山游乐园)

The amusement area has more than 50 attractions, including a carousel, roller coaster, love train and flying saucer.

Where: Bajiao Village, Shijingshan Open: 8:45 am - 5 pm Admission: 50 yuan

Bajiao Park (八角公园)

Bajiao Park is administered by Bajiao village. It features cedar, yulan and ginkgo trees. There is a small lake and a large area of grassland.

Where: Bajiao Village, Shijingshan Open: 8:45 am - 5 pm Admission: 1 yuan

Fengtai District

Lianhuachi Park (莲花池公园)

Lianhuachi Park lies to the northeast of Liuliqiao. During summer, the lake, after which the park is named, is covered with a variety of different kinds of lotuses. June to August is peak lotus viewing time.

The lake is surrounded by four hills, of which the one on the east side offers a panoramic view of the lake.

Where: 48 Lianhuachilu Open: 6 am - 9 pm Admission: 2 yuan

Wanfangting Park (万芳亭公园)

A garden amongst parks, Wanfangting Park boasts numerous roses, as well as more exotic species such as clove trees.

Where: Yangqiao Xili Open: 6 am - 10 pm Admission: 1 yuan

Fengtai Park (丰台公园)

Natural garden scenery is this park's claim to fame.

Where: 60 Xisihuan Nanlu pen: 6 am - 10 pm Admission: 1 yuan

Changxindian Park (长辛店公园)

Where: Jia 1, Chanxindianqiao
Huayuannanli, Open: 6 am - 9 pm Admission: 1 yuan

Nanyuan Park (南苑公园)

Where: 5 Nanyuan Xilu Open: 6 am - 9 pm Admission: 1 yuan

WALL WALKS

Yanmen Pass

By Lisa Huang

Yanmen fort nestles on the summit of a hill in the Yanmen Mountains, in Dai County, Shanxi province. It is accessible only by way of an ancient trail that winds its way up between cliffs.

Originally built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and rebuilt during the Ming (1368-1644), the fort was a key military outpost in ancient times, built to guard Yanmen pass against invaders from the north.

The highest peak of Yanmen Mountain is 2,057 meters above sea level, and it used to be said that even migrating wild geese could not fly over it, hence the name Yanmen, meaning Wild Geese Pass.

Yanmen fort measures one kilometer in circumference. The wall is built of bricks and stones, rising six meters high. There used to be gates on the east, west and north. However today, all that remain are the remains of a few stone steles, stone lions, and a couple of flag poles.

Getting there: Take train K701 from Beijing Railway Station to Xinzhou (忻州), then bus to Dai County.



Yanmen Pass

MUSEUM WATCH

Beijing Natural History Museum

By Guo Yuandan

The Beijing Natural History Museum is the largest natural history museum in China. Its collection of some 5,000 specimens is divided into three sections: zoology, paleontology and botany.

The 2,000-odd specimens in the zoology section illustrate the course of evolution from simple aquatic to complex terrestrial forms. These exhibits include a lynx and other of northeast China, a peacock and parrot of southeast China and a whale and a giant clam, as specimens of ocean dwellers. Two eye-catching reptile specimens are a leatherback sea turtle and a Chinese alligator.

The fossils in the paleontology hall, from the Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras, give a glimpse of the prehistoric life that flourished between 500 million and one million years ago. Examples include the skeleton of a high-nosed Qingdaosaurus, found at Qingdao, Shandong Province, and the skeleton of a Mamenchisaurus, unearthed at Mamenchi in Sichuan Province.

The Botany hall contains specimens of a wide range of flora, including algal life forms and kelp.

Where: 126 Tianqiao Nandajie
Open: Daily 8:30 am - 4 pm
Admission: 15 yuan Tel: 6702 4431



The skeleton of Dinosaurs shown in the museum